

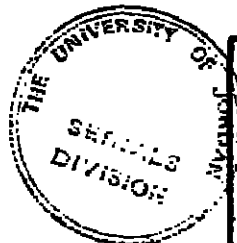
Rabbani campaigns against mercenaries

KABUL (AP) — President Burhanuddin Rabbani Tuesday urged Muslim countries to stop foreign mercenaries from coming to Afghanistan and turning his country into a battleground for an Islamic proxy war. Mr. Rabbani also asked Afghanistan's Islamic neighbours to end their support for diverse, well-armed rebel factions vying for power and appealed to a rival rebel leader, Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, to stop allowing foreign rebels to fight the Islamic government still struggling to take root after nearly a year in power. "There are a number of Arabs fighting against the Islamic government. This will only bring more sorrow for us and for the nation," Mr. Rabbani said in an interview following prayers for 'Eid Al Fitr. "I'm asking countries not to allow these terrorist groups to come to Afghanistan, and I am asking Hekmatyar now not to allow them to fight," he said.

Rabbani said to escape attack, page 2

Jordan Times

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Happy 'Eid Al Fitr

THE JORDAN TIMES will not be published on Thursday/Friday, March 25/26, on account of the 'Eid Al Fitr holidays. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Saturday, March 27. The Jordan Times wishes its readers and advertisers a very happy 'Eid Al Fitr.

King receives greetings; Good 'Eid weather predicted, page 3

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Settler kills Palestinian captive in cold blood

Rabin wants Israelis to 'defend' themselves

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Jewish settler shot to death a Palestinian who was bound hand and foot after a stabbing Tuesday, and another Palestinian succumbed to injuries sustained in Israeli gunfire.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin urged Israelis to defend themselves instead of griping about Palestinian attacks.

The settler who opened fire believed the man had a grenade, Israel Radio said. But another settler said the grenade had been taken before the 21-year-old Palestinian was killed. Radio reports said he was shot eight or nine times in the back at close range.

The killing came amid an escalation in Arab-Israeli violence and renewed an angry debate over Palestinian attacks and what Israelis can do to "defend" themselves.

Eight Israelis and 12 Palestinians have been killed this month. Also Tuesday, two Israelis were shot and slightly wounded, and a Palestinian died after being hit a day earlier by army gunfire. The army also acknowledged improper action Monday when troops killed 11-year-old retarded boy carrying a toy gun.

Tuesday's killing came after two settlers seized Musa Abu Sabha near the Sussiya settlement in the occupied West Bank, suspecting he intended to attack a nearby school, the army said.

The settlers put Abu Sabha in a jeep, but he then pulled a knife and stabbed one in the shoulder, the army said. "They both jumped on him, tied his hands and feet and took him off the vehicle," it added.

While the injured settler, Moshe Deutsch, who was being treated, another settler "approached the Arab and shot him from close range and killed him," the army said.

Police detained the settler, identified by the radio as Yoram Skolnick from the nearby Maale Hever settlement.

The radio said Skolnick rushed to the scene after hearing a report of a grenade carrying Arab. But Yair Har Sinai, another settler, told the radio the grenade was taken away before Skolnick fired. Ron Schechner, a settlement leader, said on the radio that he did not know if the Palestinian threatened anyone's life.

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His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday meets with Russian Foreign Ministry official Boris Posuvalyuk (Petra photo)

King meets Posuvalyuk, urges active role of co-sponsors in peace process

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday called on the United States and Russia to assume to a more active role in the Middle East peace process.

The King, in a meeting with Boris Posuvalyuk, director of the Africa and Middle East Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, said the root causes for instability in the Middle East were the unresolved Palestinian problem and the failure of the international community to restore the national rights of the Palestinian people, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The King also underlined Jordan's keen interest in developing relations with Russia based on frankness and mutual confidence, "particularly at this critical juncture in world affairs," the news agency said.

The King "emphasised the need for intervention by the two sponsors of the peace process (the U.S. and Russia) to overcome the obstacles placed by

Israel in the path of a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict," it said.

The King affirmed "the need for resuming the peace talks soon to seize the current exceptional opportunity to resolve the Palestinian problem."

The King and the Russian official stressed the need for the resumption of the peace talks to resolve the conflict "in a manner that would be just, comprehensive and acceptable to future generations," Petra said.

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Posuvalyuk, who arrived from Damascus Monday, is trying to explore how Moscow could help advance efforts to resolve the crisis sparked by Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians.

The expulsion has blocked the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks. Washington and Moscow have issued invitations to all parties — Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinians and Israel — to resume the talks in the U.S. capital on April 20, but the Palestinians are refusing to

attend before the expulsion crisis is resolved.

In public they are calling for the implementation of U.N. Resolution 799, but in private they are pursuing a compromise formula involving a phased return of the expellees and certain Israeli commitments to the essence of the peace talks.

The compromise formula is stalled over Israel's refusal to accept some of its stipulations. A collective Arab response to the U.S.-Russian invitation to the April 20 talks in expected from a March 28-29 meeting in Damascus.

A Palestinian delegation is due to visit Washington Friday for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to discuss the impasse.

Mr. Posuvalyuk also met with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and discussed with him the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations. "We discussed the latest developments and the peace process

(Continued on page 3)

Gulf leaders denounce extremism

RIYADH (AP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia called for moderation in the Islamic World in a message Tuesday marking the 'Eid Al Fitr feast as his crown prince and other Gulf leaders warned of the dangers of uncontrolled Muslim extremism.

"Let all our matters be dealt with moderation, for God has made of us a balanced nation... in which there is neither indecisiveness nor extremism," the king said in the recorded address, broadcast by Riyadh radio and television.

King Fahd prayed for peace for the Palestinians, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Somalia.

'Eid Al Fitr celebrations started in Saudi Arabia and neighbouring countries as well as several other Muslim states Tuesday with sighting Monday of the crescent moon, marking the new lunar month.

Some Muslim countries such as Jordan, Egypt, Oman and Yemen start their feast a day later. During the feast, life comes to a standstill as families celebrate with outings and plush meals.

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah also warned against extremism. "There is nothing more dangerous for the Arab and Islamic world nowadays than a stupid outlook that is ignorant of the fact that the world of today lives an area of internationalised thought and interests," he said.

In neighbouring Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan came out strongest against fundamentalism. Speaking to Muslim theologians, Sheikh Zayed underscored the responsibility of men of religion in educating youth on the principles of Islam.

"Islam is a religion of right, of

(Continued on page 3)



Israelis holding a sit-in in Jerusalem demanding tougher measures against Palestinians are sprayed with water by police in an attempt to disperse them (AFP photo)

Court rejects Yeltsin rule; speaker calls for impeachment

Kozyrev in U.S., says crisis under control

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia's constitutional court ruled Tuesday that President Boris Yeltsin violated the constitution when he declared emergency rule, and the speaker of congress said there were grounds to remove him from office.

Russia's 247 member standing legislature, the Supreme Soviet, met in atmosphere of confusion and gloom and called a meeting for Wednesday at which it may start impeachment proceedings. Some legislators shouted for Mr. Yeltsin's impeachment in the brief meeting.

In Washington, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev warned against over-dramatising Russia's political crisis and assured that "everything is under control."

"Everything is all right, don't over-dramatise the dramatic situation," Mr. Kozyrev told reporters as he arrived at the U.S. State Department for talks with Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"Everything is Okay, under control... be alert but don't worry," added Mr. Kozyrev, who was due to meet President Bill Clinton at the White House Wednesday.

Mr. Kozyrev said that during his two-day visit to Washington

he would discuss with U.S. officials "how you translate political solidarity between democrats on both sides — small and capital 'D' — into a practical programme of cooperation in order to promote reform in Russia and also cooperate with the United States with respect to its own domestic agenda."

At that point he swept into the State Department with his entourage turning aside questions about whether Russia would formally ask to move a planned April 3-4 summit between Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Clinton from Vancouver, Canada, to Moscow.

In Moscow Russian Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fyodorov said earlier that Russia would like to move the summit from Vancouver to Moscow.

The White House said Tuesday it had yet to receive an official request from Mr. Yeltsin to change the summit site. On Monday administration officials said they would consider moving the summit if Mr. Yeltsin deemed it necessary.

Moving the summit to Moscow would allow Mr. Yeltsin to stay in Russia instead of leaving the country at a time when he is in a power struggle with the congress.

The constitutional courts deci-

sion, a non-binding conclusion that did not mention impeachment, was likely to be disputed by the president's legal advisers. Kremlin spokesmen declined immediate comment on the decision but said Mr. Yeltsin would go ahead with plans for a referendum on his rule.

Court attorneys and Mr. Yeltsin's critics in the congress clearly viewed the ruling as a green light to remove the 62-year-old president from office.

"It is absolutely clear that there are grounds for initiating the impeachment process. That's without question," said Congress Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, Mr. Yeltsin's main rival.

Under Russian law, a conclusion by the court that Mr. Yeltsin violated the constitution gives the Supreme Soviet grounds to convene the 1,033-member Congress of People's Deputies, which can impeach him on a two-thirds vote.

An impeachment vote would declare his powers void immediately and permanently.

The president's aides have said he would ignore impeachment by the Soviet era congress, more has

(Continued on page 5)

Expellees mend fences

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (Agencies) — The nearly 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel celebrated the 'Eid Al Fitr feast, which ended the Holy Month of Ramadan, by burying their first open rift Tuesday.

Fadi Shurro, top assistant of Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, was at the expellees' makeshift tent-camp to oversee the reconciliation.

"I am proud that the split between Hamas and Islamic Jihad is over. The grudge is buried," Mr. Shurro, who managed to reach the camp through a mountain trail overnight, told reporters.

The two fundamentalist movements present in the camp split last week over the way to mark the Iranian sponsored Jerusalem Day of solidarity with the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Some 30 followers of Islamic Jihad, which is openly dependent on Iran for aid, staged a protest demonstration during which Israeli and American flags were burned.

The rest of the exiles, who belong to Hamas and who make up the overwhelming majority of the exiles, boycotted the protest, claiming the agitation did not serve their cause.

It was the first public rift

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinian-Christopher meeting set for Friday

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians will meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington Friday to discuss resuming stalled Middle East peace talks, spokeswoman Hana Ashrawi said Tuesday.

"We have had an invitation to go to Washington for some time... we are going to meet Mr. Christopher next Friday," she told Reuters.

She said peace negotiators would meet him before a meeting in Damascus Sunday of foreign ministers from Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, partners in the talks, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). That meeting is to discuss whether to attend the peace talks.

The talks have been suspended since Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to Lebanon in December. Palestinians refused to accept an invitation to attend the ninth round of Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington on April 20, saying Israel must first commit itself not to carry out further expulsions.

"Foremost we want a comprehensive discussion of the issues

(Continued on page 5)

obstructing the peace process, including the problem of the deportees and human rights in the occupied territories," Dr. Ashrawi said of the meeting with Mr. Christopher.

On Monday Mr. Christopher warned Arabs and Israelis that the Middle East could plunge into war again if the two sides missed the opportunity to negotiate peace.

"It is imperative that all sides act to seize this opportunity and return to the negotiating tables in Washington on April 20, as we have invited them to."

"If they do not, if they allow this unique chance to slip away, another generation in the Middle East could be lost to an endless cycle of confrontation and, eventually, war."

The decision for the Washington meeting with Mr. Christopher followed an exchange of messages between Palestinians and the State Department.

Seab Erekat, vice-chairman of the delegation, told the Associated Press that the first meeting would be Friday.

(Continued on page 5)

Chirac to Mitterrand: Quit or let us govern

PARIS (R) — Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac urged Socialist President Francois Mitterrand Tuesday to quit or allow a victorious conservative majority to govern France.

Mr. Chirac, the conservative frontrunner to succeed Mr. Mitterrand, was speaking after the centre-right parties overcame the first squabble since their triumph in the first round of parliamentary elections and agreed to field joint candidates in all but four of next Sunday's run-off ballots (see page 8).

The centre-right Union for France (UPF) alliance scored 39.5 per cent in last Sunday's first round and is forecast to win 450 to 476 of the 577 National Assembly seats — an unprecedented landslide.

"It would be in Mr. Mitterrand's own interest to resign. Otherwise he must not hinder the next government," Mr. Chirac told journalists on a campaign trip in Croisilles, northern France.

Mr. Chirac headed a right-wing government that shared power uncomfortably with Mr. Mitterrand from 1986 until 1988, when

Mr. Mitterrand defeated him in a presidential election.

The 76-year-old president has made clear he intends to serve out his second seven-year term until 1995 despite his party's crushing defeat.

The Socialists scored just 17.6 per cent on the first round and may keep as few as 54 of their 276 seats.

Former Prime Minister Michel Rocard, almost certain to lose his own seat, reaffirmed Tuesday he would run as Socialist candidate in the 1995 presidential election.

He said voters had rejected the Socialists massively because of the European economic crisis, "a certain socialist arrogance," and "that whiff of scandals."

In an apparent swipe at Mr. Mitterrand, his longtime rival, Mr. Rocard said it was necessary to change "the excessively elitist and imperial character" of those in power.

UPF leaders confirmed their electoral pact for the second round after ex-President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's Union for French Democracy (UDF) drop-

(Continued on page 3)

New gas find boosts prospects for foreign role in exploration in Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prospects for foreign interest in exploring for oil and gas have improved significantly with the discovery of a new gas field with commercial-level reserves in the Al Rishah region, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Ali Abul Ragheb said Tuesday.

"Jordan's hand is strengthened with the new discovery," the minister said. "We are now intensifying our drive to attract foreign firms to launch exploration work in Jordan," he said.

Definite figures on gas deposits at the new field, 50 kilometres south of fields

already under production near the border with Iraq, will be available only after closer studies and assessment, Mr. Abul Ragheb said. But the expected output will be definitely more than the present combined production of 22 million cubic feet from two wells, the minister said.

The new field lies outside the area of concession given to South Korea's Hanbo company, which has already dug two exploratory wells under an exploration and production-sharing agreement it signed with the government last year.

Having established the commercial feasibility of the new fields, the government will be spending its own funds to develop and exploit the reserves.

Mr. Abul Ragheb told the Jordan Times. "But there is a vast area out there beyond the new find where foreign companies could easily start exploration work," he said.

He noted that the very fact that the new find lies 50 kilometres from the already-producing wells strongly indicates the presence of what could prove to be the vast gas deposits in the region.

"It is a matter of time and doing more exploration work before we locate them," he said, adding further to the theory that Jordan, which lies close to oil giants Saudi Arabia and Iraq, does have commercially viable deposits of oil and gas.

The two gas wells at Al Rishah are estimated to hold about 215 billion cubic feet of gas. Assessment is continuing at six other sites to determine deposits there, but it is expected that these hold higher reserves.

"Our problem is limited resources and the government cannot afford to spend more on exploration activities," Mr. Abul Ragheb said. "Hence our drive to attract foreign companies."

The government is setting up a commercial entity to take charge of all gas and oil exploration in Jordan and has invited foreign companies to join the company. Jordan will retain controlling interest in the firm.

American Oil Company and Hunt Oil of the U.S. and Petrofina of Belgium were among international firms which undertook exploration activities in Jordan in mid- and late 1980s under sharing agreements with the government. The American companies have suspended their operations here while Petrofina is continuing exploration work.

The present daily output of 22 million cubic feet from the Al Rishah gas fields is used to operate two 30-megawatt turbines to generate 13 per cent of the Kingdom's power needs. With the completion of an expansion project of processing facilities, the output will be raised to 46 million per day and another 30-megawatt turbine

will be installed there.

The expansion project is carried out with help from Petro-Canada, an arm of the Canadian government which has contributed significantly to gas and oil exploration in Jordan.

At international prices, Jordan consumes imported energy worth more than \$300 million every year; fuel used in power-generation accounts for about 30 per cent of the total consumption and officials hope that commercial gas deposits would go a long way in reducing the dependence on imported energy and saving foreign exchange.

Furthermore, officials also note that natural gas has been

(Continued on page 3)

Upon the Occasion of
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War-weary Turks, Kurds see chance for peace

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

ANKARA — For the first time since separatist Kurds launched a grinding guerrilla war in southeast Turkey nine years ago, both sides discern a glimmer of a chance for peace.

In a major political shift, Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels, last week declared a unilateral 26-day ceasefire, renounced his secessionist goals and urged Turks and Kurds to engage in a peaceful dialogue.

His change of heart had an immediate impact at the weekend when Kurds celebrated the Nowruz spring festival with a minimum of violence. Last year about 100 people were killed.

Kurds in the southeast are rejoicing at what they see as new prospects that a conflict which has killed about 5,500 people may soon be over. They hope a political struggle may win them the freedoms which the guerrilla war had brought no nearer.

Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has ruled out negotiations with the PKK and dismissed Mr. Ocalan's proposal for a federation.

"Turkey is a unitary state.

It's a wrong to discuss federation," Milliyet newspaper Tuesday quoted him as saying.

But in a remarkable change of tone for a Turkish leader, he also acknowledged that Turkish attempts in the past to assimilate Kurds against their will were mistaken.

"I do recognise the Kurdish reality," he told Milliyet. "What I mean is that any citizen who calls himself a Kurd cannot be forced to call himself a Turk, that the pressure previously applied has been wrong. A Kurd is a Kurd."

"A citizen who calls himself a Kurd is equal to a citizen who calls himself a Turk and has equal rights. The state also belongs to him. He can also be a judge, prosecutor, general, member of parliament, prime minister or president," he said.

Mr. Demirel said he first recognised the Kurdish reality soon after taking office in November 1991. But since then the military struggle with the PKK has dominated government policy.

Turkish officials argue that the emphasis on military action has paid off. Last year's destruction of PKK bases in northern Iraq and the ruthless pursuit of rebels inside Turkey

crippled the guerrillas and forced Mr. Ocalan to sue for peace, they say.

Diplomatically, Mr. Ocalan also lost ground. Iraqi Kurds helped Turkey drive the PKK from their territory. Syria shut PKK bases in Lebanon. Turkey's Western allies denounced the PKK, while quietly urging Ankara to end human rights abuses against Kurds.

Prodded by Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani, Mr. Ocalan has now set the PKK on a new course. At the weekend he even sealed a political pact with an old Kurdish rival, Kurdistan Socialist Party leader Kemal Burkay, whom he once called a traitor.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Their joint programme called for an end to the fighting, an amnesty, abolition of the state of emergency in the southeast and dismantling of anti-guerrilla units, special police teams and state-paid village guard forces in the region. They also demanded greater political freedoms which should be enshrined in a "democratic constitution which guarantees the rights of the Kurdish people." Cultural

freedoms should include education and broadcasting in the Kurdish language.

Kurds in the southeast, where the war has brought economic misery and forced thousands to migrate to richer western Turkey, echo these demands and now deny they ever wanted to secede.

But just as Turkish soldiers at checkpoints say they have no faith in the PKK's ceasefire, many Kurds say they fear that Turkey will not keep promises of progress towards democracy and human rights once the guerrilla struggle is defeated.

"Since the 1830s, all Kurdish revolts were followed by promises which were not kept," said Mehdi Zana, a former mayor of the southeastern provincial capital of Diyarbakir who has spent many years in prison for nationalist views.

"The Kurdish people have been jailed, abused and cheated. There is distrust, but there is also hope," he told Reuters.

Mr. Zana and other nationalists said they did not expect violence in the southeast to end overnight, but stressed that debate should now focus on the Kurdish people, not the PKK.

"There are people on both sides who have vested interests in the conflict...it won't be plain sailing," he said.

Orhan Dogan, a Kurdish member of parliament, argued that the armed forces and intelligence services constituted an "invisible state" which could sabotage peace moves.

But he said Mr. Ocalan's ceasefire could end a war which had achieved nothing, and had put the ball in Turkey's court.

"The state will never want to sit and negotiate with Apo (Ocalan's nickname)," he said. "Although on one level they will reject negotiations with 'terrorist brigades', at the same time they will prepare the people for implementation (of changes)."

Mr. Dogan said the eventual form of a political compromise was not the most vital element in a peaceful settlement.

"A federal constitution is not important. What is important is that people should join it with a ready heart. It's not in the interests of Turks and Kurds to live separately," he said.

"This senseless, dirty war has exhausted the Turkish and Kurdish peoples," he told Reuters.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli surrogate militia releases 16 prisoners

MARIJAYOUN (AP) — Israel's surrogate militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), freed 16 Shiite Muslim prisoners from the Khiam prison in Israel's self-designated "security zone" Tuesday. SLA commander Antoine Lahd issued a statement that called the release a goodwill gesture marking the "Eid Al Fitr feast, which ends the Holy Month of Ramadan. The freed prisoners, including two women, were held at Khiam on charges of aiding attacks on the "security zone" by guerrillas of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah. All but one of the released prisoners hailed from villages inside the 1,000 square-kilometre enclave Israel carved out in 1985. One is from Jbsa just north of the "security zone." The village is a stronghold of Hizbollah. There are more than 300 prisoners in the Khiam jail. Their release has long been demanded by Hizbollah and several other Shiite and leftist factions backed by Syria as a condition for a prisoners swap with Israel and the SLA. Israel has been seeking the return of six servicemen missing in Lebanon since 1982. All but airman Ron Arad, whose whereabouts could not be determined, are believed dead. At least 12 SLA militiamen are held by Hizbollah. The United Nations, which mediated the release of the last Western hostages held by extremists in the past two years, apparently has given up efforts to arrange an Arab-Israeli prisoner exchange.

Sudanese leader orders release of prisoners

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al-Bashir has ordered the release of all prisoners who have served at least half of their sentences to mark the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan, state television reported. The television, in its report on Monday night, did not say how many prisoners benefited from the pardon.

Belgian aid worker shot dead in Iraq

BRUSSELS (AP) — The Belgian director of an aid project providing artificial limbs for war victims in northern Iraq died Monday when an unknown gunman sprayed his car with bullets. Vincent Tillet, 29, perished when his car was hit outside the city of Sulaymaniyah in Iraq's Kurdish-dominated northern enclave, said a spokesman for the humanitarian group Handicap International. Another Belgian aid worker and a local policeman were also in the car, but escaped unhurt, said spokesman Pascal Simon. Mr. Simon said the group had no idea who had carried out the attack. Mr. Tillet ran a project helping handicapped victims of fighting between Iraqi forces and Kurdish nationalists. His project concentrated on producing and fitting artificial legs for land mine victims. In Ankara, Turkey, an Iraqi Kurdish representative Serchill Qezazi said the attacker was dressed as a Kurdish guerrilla, but was heard speaking Arabic instead of Kurdish. Mr. Simon said it was the first time his aid group had been attacked in Iraq. Handicap International has branches in France, Denmark and Belgium. Its 135 staffers run projects to help the disabled in 27 Third World nations. This was the second fatal attack on relief workers in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq this year. On Jan. 7, Stan Cameron, an official of Care International, Australia, had been killed and another Care worker was wounded by unknown gunmen.

Ireland seeks protection for aid groups

MOGADISHU (R) — An Irish government minister called Tuesday for greater protection for aid workers in Somalia, saying they had become "soft targets" for gunmen. "If aid workers are forced to pull out of Somalia because of security reasons, the whole system will collapse in Somalia. Aid workers ensure the link between donors and the beneficiaries," Minister of State Tom Kitt told Reuters. Mr. Kitt's visit to Somalia came one month after the death of Irish nurse Valerie Place, employed by the Irish charity Concern. She was hit by a hail of bullets as she travelled in a convoy of three cars to the western town of Afgoi. Mr. Kitt discussed the security situation for aid workers on Monday with the United Nations special envoy in Somalia, retired Admiral Jonathan Howe. "We agreed that much progress has been made in getting food supplies to the hungry...but aid workers have become softer targets for attack," Mr. Kitt said. Mr. Kitt said he had made several recommendations to Howe to improve security. These included increased air cover for aid convoys, greater cooperation between aid agencies over security, and the use of a voucher system for payment, instead of money. Aid workers, backed by a 23-nation international force since last December, have become greater targets of attack in Somalia. Another aid worker, Sean Devereux, was shot dead in the southern port of Kismayu in January. Aid groups in Kismayu said last week that they evaluated daily whether it was worth the risk staying in Somalia.

Arafat urges Palestinians to escalate uprising

NICOSIA (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has urged the Palestinians to escalate resistance against Israel and "burn the earth under the feet of the occupiers."

In an interview with the Paris-based Arabic-language Radio Monte Carlo, Mr. Arafat appealed to U.S. President Bill Clinton to prove his commitment to human rights by reining in what he said was Israel's "cruel oppression" of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Eighteen Palestinians and eight Israelis have been killed in confrontations this month. Four Palestinians were reported shot dead by troops Monday in the Gaza Strip.

"Violence only breeds violence," Mr. Arafat said over the radio from the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

He accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of "operating with the mentality of a war general."

He added: "In the face of this bloody terrorism, I ask my brethren in the occupied homeland to unite and resist until they burn the earth under the feet of the occupiers."

"I would like to ask President Clinton to prove the commitment to human rights. Their (U.S.) credibility is at stake because what is happening in the occupied territories could torpedo the whole peace process," he said. "I would like to see international legitimacy deal evenhandedly with what is going on in the occupied territories," he said.

Mr. Arafat said the Palestinians have not yet taken a final decision regarding an invitation extended by the American and Russian co-sponsors for the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington April 20.

The Palestinians had said they would not attend unless Israel agrees to repatriate the nearly 400 Palestinians it expelled on Dec. 17.

The men, suspected members of Muslim fundamentalist groups, are perched in a tent camp in southeast Lebanon.

Mr. Arafat said Palestinian participation in the talks will be decided at a PLO leadership meeting after a March 28-29 meeting in Damascus of the key Arab participants in the process — Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians.

He disclosed that the PLO sent a letter this week to the Clinton administration which was handed to the U.S. embassy in Tunis by Faisal Husseini, a pro-PLO activist from the West Bank who is the key adviser to the Palestinian negotiating team.

Mr. Arafat said the letter urged Washington to seek a commitment from Israel to repatriate the exiles and refrain from further expulsions.

He also urged Washington to "endorse the invalidity of the deportation" and renew commitment to the principles of the peace process.

The Arabs have complained that since the start of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in October 1991, Washington has done little to bring Israel to endorse U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which call on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories.

These resolutions had been cited by the Bush administration as the basis for a settlement.

Mr. Arafat disclosed that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hassan II of Morocco were exerting "sincere efforts" to find a formula that would put the peace process back on track.

Tehran Radio reports Rabbani escaped attack

NICOSIA (AP) — Tehran Radio reported Tuesday that Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani survived an attack in which several of his bodyguards were wounded.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, did not say whether Mr. Rabbani was hurt, but the report implied that he escaped uninjured.

The radio also gave no sources for the report, but the Iranian deputy foreign minister, Alasadin Boroujerdi, is in Afghanistan along with several Iranian journalists.

Mr. Rabbani was on his way to meet his archival and new prime minister, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Monday, when his car was attacked by unidentified assailants in east Kabul, the radio said.

It did not give details, such as what weapons were used in the attack.

Rival Afghan factions signed a peace agreement earlier this month, promising to set aside their differences in an effort to end a civil war that has ravaged Kabul and killed 5,000 people.

The accord calls for leaders to choose a cabinet by Sunday and start restoring peace. Despite a ceasefire, the warring sides have continued to pound the city's suburbs.

A meeting of faction leaders in

the eastern city of Jalalabad broke up Sunday after three days without an agreement.

Najibullah treated

Afghanistan's deposed marxist ruler was taken secretly from a guarded U.N. compound to a hospital for treatment of kidney stones, military and diplomatic sources said.

The sources said Mr. Najibullah, who like many Afghans uses only one name, began having severe pains last week.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the sources said a doctor went to the compound where Mr. Najibullah took refuge almost a year ago as his Soviet-installed regime crumbled after a 14-year rebellion. He was taken to a military hospital, given medicine and returned to the compound in central Kabul to rest.

Only a few people, most of them diplomats, have spoken to Mr. Najibullah since he tried to leave the country April 16, 1992, aboard a U.N. chartered plane. He was stopped at Kabul Airport by rebellious troops.

The U.N. compound is guarded by soldiers loyal to the Islamic government that took power from Mr. Najibullah's administration on April 25, 1992.

Somalis turn to video entertainment

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

MOGADISHU — The people of the Somali capital Mogadishu, deprived of television for more than two years, are flocking to the cinema instead.

But old-fashioned film is out and video is in, even at the one big screen in town — the Cinema Equatore at the KM 4 roundabout in the southern suburbs.

The other "cinemas" are mostly large rooms equipped with a television, a video recorder and some powerful loudspeakers.

Many are packed from mid-morning till late in the evening and the owners, who charge from 500 to 1,000 shillings (10 to 20 U.S. cents) a person, say that "business is booming."

More and more of these video halls have opened this year, partly because of the improvement in security since the United States and its allies sent troops to Mogadishu last December.

"It's a good way to make money," said Abdurazak Kaynan, who described himself as a former teacher from the inland town of Baidoa, the centre of the Somali famine last year.

Mr. Kaynan took over a government warehouse on the road to the airport, put in some benches and acquired the equipment.

His most valuable possession is not the video recorder itself but the generator round the back — Mogadishu has no public electricity and generators tend to attract looters.

"I'm not planning to go back to teaching," said Mr. Kaynan, whose unnamed cinema opened on March 1 and shows mostly Indian melodramas in the original Hindi.

The Equatore is altogether a different affair.

With room for 1,000 on metal chairs in the open air, and a raised gallery above, it has a screen eight metres across, served by an elaborate Japanese-made projection system worth about \$15,000, said manager Hussein Mohammad Ado.

It reopened on March 7 and is drawing crowds of 500 to 700 a night with American police thrillers dubbed in Italian.

A sign at the entrance bans rifles, pistols, knives and walking sticks but the customers can bring their own qat, the stimulant leaf which Somalis like to chew in the evening.

The remains of last night's chews have been swept up and fill a large plastic bag in the corner.

"We don't find it causes any trouble. We don't have fights or anything like that," the manager said.

Mr. Ado said the switch to video came in 1989, when the government of Mohammed Siad Barre, strapped for foreign exchange, banned imports of foreign feature films.

Somalia has never made its own feature films but a company set up in Mogadishu one year ago has started a new venture — dubbing foreign videos in Somali.

It started with Chuck Norris' "Mission in Action", translated into Somali as "Codki bo Baha" (voice of the gun).

Then, inevitably, came Sylvester Stallone's

"We tend to do action films. That's what the cinema want," said Abdurazak Mahdi, owner and manager of the dubbing company, which calls itself Company Translation of Freedom (CTF).

On its posters CTFF claims to be based in Nairobi, Kenya, but it really has its headquarters in an unmarked Mogadishu villa.

Beyond tragedies, uprising brings daily humiliations and pain

By Karin Laub
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — "I don't ever want to see you in this neighbourhood again," an Israeli policeman warns a Palestinian driver after stopping him in a Jewish district. "If I do, you're going to be sorry."

The middle-class Palestinian protests he has a permit to visit. But the young cop cuts short the plea, searches the man's car, checks his identity papers and sends him packing.

The exchange, near a bus stop where a Palestinian stabbed an Israeli to death last month, was a typical incident in Jerusalem as the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the occu-

pied territories approaches 26 years.

The revolt's effect is usually measured in numbers of killed and wounded, but it goes far beyond that. It has spawned widespread pain and fear in both the Jewish and Arab communities alike.

Palestinians feel humiliated and powerless against the soldiers whose guns have taken hundreds of lives. Israelis fear attack by Arabs with knives and resent being forced to live guarded lives.

Rami Suleiman, a 13-year-old Palestinian from Jerusalem, knows about the violence from both sides.

Last year, masked Palestinians stabbed and wounded his father as a suspected informer for Israel. During a stone-

throwing clash last month, border police shot Rami three times in the leg with rubber-coated metal pellets.

Rami says he goes to school with a queasy feeling because border police often come and curse the students for sport.

In front of his school buddies, Rami puts up a brave front. "If a soldier calls me a dog, I call him a bigger dog," he says.

But later, at home, he acknowledges: "Of course, I'm afraid of them. I was seven when they first stopped me."

In the occupied Gaza Strip, 40-year-old economic Fawaz Abu Site says he most resents the feeling of confinement since, like all Gazans, he needs a pass to enter Israel.

"I feel I'm in a large prison,"

says Mr. Abu Site. "I don't dare to leave the house dark because the soldiers seem very tense, and I'm afraid I could get shot in some mixup."

In Armon Hanatziv, a Jewish district in Jerusalem that borders two Arab villages, 32-year-old Helen Hamani says she lives in constant fear of an Arab knife attack.

In June 1990, an 11-year-old boy was stabbed by an Arab woman at a bus stop near Mrs. Hamani's house. She quit her secretarial job because she felt it was too risky to be away from her three young children.

During the past year, the front windshield of the family car was smashed twice by stones, and a neighbour's car was burned.

"I feel great bitterness be-

cause this affects our whole lives. We want to live in peace with them (the Arabs), but they won't let us," she says.

Still, military rule disrupts the lives of Palestinians far more than fear does that of Israelis, many of whom live distant from the occupied territories and worry more about monthly bills than knifings.

Since the uprising began on Dec. 8, 1987, some 1,050 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis, 122 Israelis by Palestinians, and 709 Palestinians on suspicion of collaborating with Israel. Around 120,000 Palestinians and 6,000 Israelis have been injured.

Troops destroyed or sealed 841 Palestinian homes, uprooted more than 154,000 trees

and imposed curfews more than 11,000 times, according to a Palestinian human rights group.

Army figures show Palestinians were involved in more than 200,000 stone-throwing or tyre-burning incidents, stabbed or tried to stab Israelis 2,073 times, tossed 4,052 firebombs and 222 hand grenades.

Palestinians torched 709 cars in Jerusalem alone in 1991-92.

Much of the day-to-day violence makes only the local news, but Gaza City psychologist Dr. Fadal Abu Hien says the house searches are not quickly forgotten, and many children have nightmares after seeing their parents humiliated or struck by soldiers.

"Before the uprising, we didn't feel the pressure of the occupation so much, but now...the percentage of mental disorders has risen drastically," he said.

Dr. Abu Hien said he found a rate of mental problems in Gaza about three times the average in the West. A survey of 3,000 Gazans found 13 per cent suffer from anxiety, 8.5 per cent from depression and 12 per cent from such problems as migraines and ulcers, he said.

Boron Shochat, head of an education ministry department dealing with the uprising, says it has produced a negative image of Arabs among Jewish youth. He said the feeling "among younger ones is hate and fear and among the older ones fear and extreme political views."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Haute Tension
17:40	News in French
19:15	French Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Saved by the Bell
21:00	One Step Ahead
21:30	After the Deluge
22:00	News in English
22:30	Noble House
PRAYER TIMES	
04:15	Fajr
05:33	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:43	Dhuhr
15:11	'Asr
17:52	Maghrib
19:18	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switkh, Tel. 510740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terremont Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772551	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623642, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675891	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and windy with light and variable, becoming southeasterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and west calm.	
Amman Min./Max. temp. 7/21	
Aqaba 14/30	
Dera'a 5/23	
Jordan Valley 10/28	

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings: Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent.	Khalaf pharmacy 985417	Electric Power Company 636361 RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200	Im Al Nafes Hospital (02)470100 AQABA: Pineas Hays Hospital (03)3411
EMERGENCIES		HOSPITALS	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341 Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade 871228 Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police 843402 Traffic Police 856390 Public Security Department 630321 Hotel Complaints 608800 Price Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage 637055 Rescue 879467 Amman Municipality Complaints 787111 Telephone Information (city assistance) 121 Overseas Calls 010230 Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101 Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111 Water Authority 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615	AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalaf Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Alkhil Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malinas, J. Amman 636140 Pothouse, Shamsi 666171/4 Imam Taji (02)4200-5, where it should always be verified. 669131 University Hospital 645434 Al-Munasher Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666121/7 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164 Imam Taji 774103 Al-Baskir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26 Army, Maraka 891611/5 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 ZARQA: 674155 Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560 Bin Sina Hospital (09)98732 Al Hitan Modern Hospital (09)99909 BRIN: Pineas Hays Hospital (02)272001 Greek Orthodox Hospital (02)97275	FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT <i>This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. (02)4200-5, where it should always be verified.</i> ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 08:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:00 Jeddah (RJ) 09:15 Aqaba (RJ) 09:25 Larnak (RJ) 10:00 Aden (RJ) 16:35 London (RJ) 16:45 Frankfurt (RJ) 16:55 Istanbul (RJ) 17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 17:05 London (RJ) 18:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ) 19:25 Rome (RJ) 23:45 Damascus (RJ)
NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Youssef Nair 751144 Dr. Jihad Zaid 881148 Dr. Shabaneh Al Azzeh 733774 Dr. Arafat Al Azzeh 615507 First pharmacy 661912 Pharmacy 778336 Al Asema pharmacy 637055 Nazareth pharmacy 623672 Al Salem pharmacy 636730 Yarmouk pharmacy 644945 Shamsi pharmacy 637660 Nazareth pharmacy 623672 Najib pharmacy 847632 BRIN: Dr. Ziad Al Azzaj () Dr. Qadi Al Azzaj () ZARQA: Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein ()			

King receives 'Eid greetings

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received cables of good wishes from leaders of Arab and foreign countries on the occasion of the start of the 'Eid Al Fitr feast.

The cables were sent by King Hassan II of Morocco, Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'ed of Oman, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, President of Algerian High State Council Ali Kafi, Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir, Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Qatari Emir Sheikh Khalifah Ben Hamad Al Thani, Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifah Ben Salman Al

Khalifah, and Secretary General of the Arab League Ismat Abdul Megid.

King Hussein received cables also from U.S. President Bill Clinton, Turkish President Turgut Ozal, Philippines President Fidel Ramos, Guinean President Lansana Conte, Syrian Vice President Rifaat Al Assad, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Al Hariri, Bahraini Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Issa Al Khalifah and Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Nabih Berri.

Other cables were sent to the King by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House of Parlia-

ment Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Amman Mayor Mohammad Amin, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, Director of the General Intelligence Department Mustafa Al Qaisi, Director General of the Public Security Department Major General Fadel Ali Fheid, Director of the Civil Defence Department Major General Afif Al Ghoul, and Commander of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) in Jordan Brigadier General Mohammad Qudsiyeh.

His Majesty also received similar cables from representatives of economic, cultural, political, and commercial institutions.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday leaves Amman for Portugal on a private visit expected to last several days. He is seen off at the airport by Deputy Premier and Education Minister

Thouman Al Hindawi, Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddin and Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad condoles Khashman, Najdawi families

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Tuesday delegated the director of his office to convey his condolences to the Khashman family over the death of the wife of the late Rajab Al Khashman. Also Tuesday Prince Mohammad delegated Director of the Amman Police Department Abdullah Al Hababeh to convey his condolences to the Najdawi family over the death of Ahmad Suleiman Al Najdawi.

JTV shows Jordan's forces in Croatia

AMMAN (Petra) — From Wednesday evening through the 'Eid Al Fitr feast days, Jordan Television (JTV) will present a series of special programmes on the Jordanian troops serving with the United Nations peace keeping forces in Croatia. The programmes, which will be presented following the news bulletin in Arabic, will include

interviews with the army officers serving in the U.N. force and their relatives and parents in Jordan.

University of Jordan hold Karameh Battle seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — The Students Affairs Department at the University of Jordan held a seminar Monday evening to discuss the Karameh Battle which took place in March 1968. Retired army officer Mashour Haditha, Student Affairs Dean Mohammad Khreizat and the director of the Islamic Cultural Centre at the university addressed the audience.

USIS hosts satellite seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — The United States Information Services (USIS) is organising a seminar via satellite on April 6 on the role of the media in the age of democracy. Journalists from Jordan and other Arab countries and media specialists from the United States are expected to take part in the seminar.

Good weather forecast for 'Eid week

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and other Islamic nations celebrate 'Eid Al Fitr feast, today marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Religious ceremonies will be held in mosques throughout the Kingdom.

In congratulating the Jordanian people on the feast, Chief Islamic Justice Nuh Saliman Al Qudab called on the Muslim countries to unite their ranks and transcend

their differences, placing the higher national interest above all other considerations.

According to the Department of Meteorology good weather conditions are expected to coincide with the feast and continue with warm temperatures until the end of the week.

A department spokesman told the Jordan Times that temperatures will soar to 20°-21°C during the day Wednesday and Thurs-

day, but will drop to 6°-8°C at night.

All government offices and public institutions will remain closed on the occasion of the feast until Saturday.

Nine Arab Countries observed Tuesday as the first day of 'Eid Al Fitr'. These countries are Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Yemen.

But Jordan, Oman and Egypt celebrate it today.

New gas find boosts prospects

(Continued from page 1)

proved not cause environmental pollution and the internationally-held argument that the future of energy lies in natural gas.

"We are open to all creative suggestions and discussions with foreign firms interested in Jordan's energy deposits," said Mr. Abu Ragheb.

In addition to launching seismicological studies and exploration work at a depth of 1,000 metres near the Dead Sea, the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) also plans exploration in the Jordan Valley, he said.

"International experts say that oil is available at a depth of 6,000 metres near the Dead Sea," the minister said. "But it will be very expensive to go down to that depth. We don't have that kind of money."

The NRA is hoping to find "pockets of oil" at 1,000 metres and that these will yield enough output to justify the costs involved.

First indications that Jordan could hold commercial quantities of oil came in 1984 with the discovery of two wells near Azraq. But the euphoria that was sparked with the find slowly petered out; at their peak, the 2,300-metre-to-2,800-metre wells produced 600 barrels per day (bpd), and the present output is 60 bpd.

Jordan consumes about 60,000 barrels of oil every day.

King urges active co-sponsor role

(Continued from page 1)

in addition to bilateral relations," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

Dr. Abu Jaber said the Moscow official also delivered to him a message from Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

"It contained certain Russian ideas on how to advance the peace process," Dr. Abu Jaber

told the Jordan Times without elaboration.

Asked whether the message offered any feasible ideas to resolve the expellee crisis, the foreign minister said: "Everybody is hoping that (the stalemate) will be resolved soon so that the peace talks could resume."

Mr. Posvalyuk is scheduled to leave Jordan Wednesday. He will visit Israel and possibly Egypt.

Chirac wants Mitterrand to quit

(Continued from page 1)

ped plans to maintain its candidacies in numerous duels with Mr. Chirac's Rally for the Republic (RPR).

"It's all settled," RPR General-Secretary Alain Juppe told reporters after a meeting of the alliance. "Our partners requested four exceptions. We took note with regret."

He said the Gaullists had been "magnanimous" in agreeing that four UDF candidates who came within two per cent of the RPR contender could contest run-offs where no Socialist candidate was left on the second ballot.

Political sources said the deal, a blow to Mr. Giscard d'Estaing, ensured the RPR would have the biggest parliamentary group and be best placed to head the next government.

Mr. Mitterrand, who has a free choice under the constitution, would have little alternative to picking Mr. Chirac's lieutenant, Edouard Balladur, as prime minister, they said.

While the electoral pact averted an immediate rift on the

centre-right, more trouble was brewing with the likely creation of several rival parliamentary caucuses within the new majority.

UDF sources said Francois Leotard, another presidential hopeful, had proposed establishing a liberal parliamentary caucus, although no decision had yet been taken.

Pierre Mehaingier, leader of the Social Democratic Centre (CDS) party, another component of the UDF, said in a radio interview that centrists planned to form their own autonomous group in the new assembly.

Mr. Chirac pledged that the new government would not be arrogant despite its expected massive parliamentary majority.

"I will be without doubt one of those who will take great care that a large majority does not get carried away and allow (power) to go to its head, there is no need to be afraid."

"There is no question of revenge but just of getting this country back on its feet," he said.

Jordan rejects UNRWA proposal to levy fees on services to refugees

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian government has rejected a proposal by a U.N. agency to levy fees on some of the services it renders to Palestinian refugees, Jordanian and U.N. officials said Tuesday.

The rejection was formally conveyed to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees by Adel Irshaid, head of the Department of Palestinian Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, during a meeting in Vienna last week, said Dennis Brown, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan.

Mr. Irshaid was not immediately available for comment, but he was quoted in published reports Tuesday as saying: "We have relayed our official protest to reduce its services or ask for money in return for them."

Another senior official told the Jordan Times Tuesday: "Jordan remains opposed to any such levying of fees on UNRWA beneficiaries in the Kingdom and would continue to reject any such moves."

Jordan hosts the largest part — 38.2 per cent — of all Palestinians registered as refugees with UNRWA, which operates 197 schools with 374,400 students and

20 health centres in the Kingdom.

The proposals came under consideration by the agency, which offers services to 2.6 Palestinian refugees outside and inside the Israeli-occupied territories, after it found itself facing a \$28.5 million deficit in its budget for this year.

Last week's Vienna meeting was an emergency session of a UNRWA advisory committee to study the budget deficit.

The committee groups the Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees — Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt — and Turkey, France, Britain, Japan, the U.S. and Belgium.

UNRWA officials in Amman said at no point was there any proposal to charge fees to students at the agency's schools, but covered around 1,200 full-board trainees at its vocational training centres.

"An unofficial proposal was to levy \$10 per month on every full-board student at the (UNRWA) Vocational Training Centre and Amman Training Centre for the next scholastic year," said one of the officials.

Mr. Brown, the director, was quoted as saying last week that the agency was forced to consider levying token fees for its health and training services since it had

no alternative to bridge the deficit, particularly after no alternative to bridge the deficit, particularly after no more contributions were forthcoming from the agency's traditional donors, who, he said, were trying to reduce their own budget deficits and help fund new relief operations in other needy regions such as Somalia and former Yugoslavia.

There was no immediate word on how Syria, Lebanon and Egypt responded to the proposed fees, but UNRWA officials said Amman had obviously coordinated positions with Damascus, Beirut and Cairo and, as such, their stand would not have been any different.

Palestinians pursue Iraqi offer

An Iraqi offer to contribute \$50 million to UNRWA through oil sales has been turned down by the U.N., panel monitoring the international sanctions against that country for its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which was lobbying the U.N. to accept the offer, has approached the French government with a request for intervention with the sanctions

committee, a report from Tunis said two weeks ago.

"The entire budget deficit of UNRWA for this year could be resolved if the Iraqi offer is accepted," said a PLO official in Amman. "Obviously the U.S. and its allies have put political issues ahead of all other considerations in rejecting the Iraqi offer."

Washington's view vis-a-vis the Iraqi gesture was that it had no objections if the \$50 million were to come from U.N.-supervised oil sales under already adopted Security Council resolutions.

But, if it was an independent offer with no relevance to the resolutions, then it would not be entertained since, in the U.S. view, it was a political stunt by Baghdad to undermine U.N. resolutions.

Dispute seen heading for end

Students enrolled for teacher training course at UNRWA's Amman Training Centre appeared to have ended a week-old protest action pending discussions with the agency's administration, UNRWA officials said Tuesday.

"Apparently there was an agreement that the protesting stu-

dents would send a delegation with agency officials immediately after the 'Eid holidays with a view to addressing grievances," said Sagar M. public information officer of UNRWA in Jordan.

According to Mr. Mattar, the students, who launched a strike on March 13, demanded the protest action be suspended one day before the officials' return.

"It is expected that a deal in the between a student committee and UNRWA officials would be reached immediately after the holidays," Mr. Mattar said.

No representative of the students was immediately available for comment.

The students, who are going to take diploma courses in the centre, which is expected to be upgraded to university status in September, and that UNRWA does not allocate a quota for employment in the centre's students' vote for schools.

The demands stemmed from new government regulations by the Kingdom's schools, which only employ university graduates as teachers and diploma holders would not be accepted in the year 1997.

Abu Jaber, Hussein review upcoming talks of Arab foreign ministers in Syria

AMMAN (J.T.) — Faisal Hussein, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Tuesday left Amman for the occupied territories, following talks with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber.

Before his departure Mr. Hussein told reporters that he would be leading a Palestinian delegation to Washington Thursday at the official invitation of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to discuss the Middle East peace process and the obstacles facing it.

Mr. Hussein, who has just completed a month-long tour that included the United Kingdom, Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan, described the outcome of his tour as extremely positive.

He said he regarded his talks over the past month as a step towards overcoming the present obstacles standing in the way of peace.

"British officials have manifested full understanding of the expellees' problem and emphasised the urgent need for the resumption of the peace process," said Mr. Hussein.

Furthermore, he said, British officials expressed their desire to raise contacts between the United Kingdom and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to a higher and permanent level in the interest of everyone in the region.

During his stay in Morocco, Mr. Hussein delivered a message from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to King Hassan II regarding Moroccan-Palestinian relations and the peace process.

Referring to his visit here, Mr. Hussein praised the high level of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. He said that this coordination was instrumental to the peace process.

In his meeting with Dr. Abu Jaber Tuesday, the two sides reviewed current contacts over the expellee question in light of invitations sent out by the United States to the Arab and Israeli parties to resume negotiations in Washington on April 20.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Hussein and Dr. Abu Jaber exchanged views on the upcoming meeting of the Arab foreign ministers whose countries are taking part in the peace process.

The foreign ministers of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine

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The foreign ministers of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine



Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber holds talks Tuesday with Faisal Hussein (centre), head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks and Al Tayeb (left), Palestine Ambassador to Jordan, at the Foreign Ministry, was attended to by Palestine Ambassador true.

are scheduled to meet in Damascus on March 28, in order to coordinate their countries' stands with regard to the resumption of the peace process.

Tuesday's meeting, held at the

the Arab-Israeli peace talks and Al Tayeb (left), Palestine Ambassador to Jordan, at the Foreign Ministry, was attended to by Palestine Ambassador true.

Tuesday's meeting, held at the

Gulf leaders denounce extremism

(Continued from page 1)

forgiveness, of mercy, and it rejects the killing of a Muslim by his brother," said Sheikh Zayed. "It is corrupt religion that says otherwise and it is a dangerous means for diverting man from the principles of Islam."

Sheikh Zayed asked: "Is it in the interest of a nation and its sons that their assets be frittered away and the funds of Muslims be used to finance terrorism and quackery in the name of religion?"

Sheikh Zayed singled out Egypt and Algeria, two countries where Muslim militants are in confrontation with the authorities. He said that formerly most Muslim countries were ruled by "colonialists, but now we are ruled by our own, and our nations are rich in their own... do not let those of corrupt thought destroy the graces we have."

In Kuwait, the government banned formal celebrations of the feast, out of sympathy with the families of more than 700 Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis it says are still held by Iraq since the invasion of the emirate.

In honour of 'Eid Al Fitr, President Hosni Mubarak pardoned 2,000 prisoners who have served more than half their jail sentences, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported Tuesday.

The government-owned agency said none of the pardoned prisoners were sentenced on "terrorism," drugs or vice charges.

Egypt and other Arab countries traditionally release prisoners during religious feasts.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

Trade group report cites services to exporters

AMMAN (Petra) — An annual report just released by the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) on its 1992 operations pointed out a noticeable transformation in the services offered by JTA to Jordanian exporters in helping them to open new markets for Jordanian products abroad.

The report, which referred to trade fairs organised through JTA in several Arab and foreign countries last year, said that among the more likely importers of Jordanian national products were Libyan merchants who have placed large orders for Jordanian goods for 1993.

A trade fair held in Tripoli last year, said the report, resulted in Libyan orders for Jordanian-made building materials, metal pipes, garments of various types, refrigerators, medicines and veterinary drugs, tissue paper and carpets, among other products.

The Jordanian trade fair held in Moscow last September opened the way for Russian consumers and merchants to familiarise themselves with Jordanian national products and boost Russian-Jordanian trade relations, according to the report.

At the Moscow fair, 21 Jordanian companies displayed samples of their consumer products which could be traded through barter deals for Russian goods, the report added.

The fair also revealed great prospects for Jordanian and Russian companies to embark on joint ventures the report continued.

A large number of Jordanian companies have already concluded transactions with Russian importers, the report said.

Referring to the Jordanian fair held in Lebanon last December, the report said 18 Jordanian firms displayed many samples of Jordanian industrial products and succeeded in concluding deals with Lebanese firms and importers.

Following a study of the Libyan and Sudanese markets, the JTA has been able to update its information about trade matters with these two Arab countries concerning their market needs,

regulations governing import-export operation, not only for the JTA but also for the companies and businesses to help them facilitate their trade with Lebanon and Sudan, the report said.

Furthermore, it said the JTA is currently involved in a programme with foreign firms to establish the establishment of joint production with Jordanian companies.

In conclusion, the report senior the JTA continues to co-ordinate daily its work with the Ministry of Trade, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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Oven gas leak fire kill 2, injures 6

IRBID (J.T.) — Two brothers were killed and six other family members sustained burns in Kharja village in Irbid governorate, as a result of a fire caused by a gas-leaking oven.

While the family was preparing an iftar meal, gas leaked from the oven, causing a fire that engulfed the straw ceiling of their house.

Mohammad Hussein Al Fares (21) and his 14-year-old brother Abdul Ilah died.

Six family members, including the 55-year-old mother, quality Salem Al Qasem, sustained burns. The eldest son, however, was not injured.

Kamal (30), his wife and children, Kamal (7), Juhayr (4) and Mohammad (4) suffered serious burns to different parts of their bodies.

The family is being treated in a hospital in Irbid. The fire broke out at about 10 p.m. on Tuesday.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins of the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition entitled the Memory of Silk, displaying traditional Jordanian and Palestinian costumes, shawls, carpets, pottery, copperware, from the Widat Kassar collection — at Murad French Cultural Centre.

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Jordan Times

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Happy 'Eid

THE HUS ENDS Ramadan, and life after the Eid Al Fitr holiday should go back to normal. But this is a time for us Arabs and Muslims to take stock of our deeds in the holy month that has just ended. Interpreters of the holy script tell us during every Ramadan that one of fasting's basic objectives is to remind us, through deprivation, of the sufferings of the poor in our midst. Thanks to an abundance of studies, though, we have been reminded well in advance of the number of poor and the level of poverty. In fact, apart from those helped by the efforts of the Queen Alia Welfare Fund, which is chaired by Princess Basma, and the hidden charity of many believers and benevolent men and women, we doubt that the lot of the poor has improved. To the contrary, we have been told that the believers — those who fast — will have consumed during Ramadan at least double their normal monthly consumption which in turn might have led to shortages of certain commodities or increases in their price. The alms collected during Ramadan, as was originally intended, would be a breakaway from people's indulgence in gastronomic delights and an occasion for rapidity and social cohesion, might have been impeded. Unfortunately, Ramadan has become for many of us, an alibi for overindulgence, overspending and guest entertainment. The purification that Ramadan was meant to bring unto our bodies and souls is diminished in material living.

The circumstances in which the early Muslim prophet Muhammad observed Ramadan are surely very different today. Yet the spirit is still the same. Ramadan is intended to be a month of testing both the body and the spirit of the individual and for solidarity among the faithful. The fact that one-third of Jordan's population is under the age of 15 should have made Ramadan an occasion for the country to reduce consumption by half and reduce the overall consumption of the country and compensate the poor. This is not a matter that can be enforced by legislation. The observance of a true Ramadan can only be achieved through individuals' deep understanding of the spirit of fasting. Leaders of the community need to pay special attention to this and devise better means of persuasion to transmit the true message to Ramadan.

The fact that Muslim countries cannot agree on a uniform date for the 'Eid is another symptom of the disorientation of the Muslim Umma. At this late date of scientific accomplishments, where the new moon can be calculated to a split second accuracy, it is very perplexing to see Muslims disagree on the start of the month or its end.

On this first day of the 'Eid in Jordan, the second in many neighbouring countries, we wish everyone a happy and more meaningful return of the holy month.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DUSTOUR Arabic daily Tuesday discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories where the Israelis have been stepping on their crimes against the Palestinian population. It is regrettable that as the world is moving to end racial discrimination in South Africa it is at the same time witnessing an escalation of atrocities by the Israeli authorities against the oppressed people of Palestine, said the paper. The process and are bound to fuel hatred among the people of the region, the paper said. It also pointed out the most conspicuous aspect of racial discrimination, as practiced by Israel, was the Jewish state's expulsion of the Palestinian people from their land as King Hussein said in his message to the United Nations Monday, said the paper. It said that Israel's behaviour is creating new obstacles in the path of peace and ruining all chances of peaceful coexistence, moderation and tolerance among the people of this region. While Jordan demands a continued struggle against racial discrimination and for peace, the Kingdom at the same time is under a collective effort on the part of the world community to create a world dominated by peace cooperation, stability and security.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily urged Parliament to finalise the draft landlord and tenant law with a view to serving justice in society. The draft law now being examined by the Judiciary Committee of the Lower House of Parliament is essential to put an end to the confusion in the process of renting homes, said the columnist. The existing law grants the tenant the right to stay in the rented home, paying the same amount of rent for as long as he owns the house, said the writer. He said that it is only fair that the new draft law serve justice to the landlord whose property might be the only source of income for his living. At the same time, one should point out the excesses of the landlords who are trying to evict the present tenants, in order to let their properties to expatriates who have no shelter and are willing to pay exorbitant rent just to find a home as a temporary arrangement until matters improve, the writer continued. This readiness is not an acceptable practice on the part of the landlords who willingly had let their properties to the present tenants for a rent that was considered fair and just years ago, the writer added. The draft law, said the writer, would also do justice to those tenants who own their own homes but cannot evict those who occupy them under the terms of the present law. The writer said that the parliament's Judiciary Committee has a moral responsibility to work in a manner that would do justice to society.

By Rich Miller
Reuter

WASHINGTON — It's time for the United States and its allies to put up or shut up and back Russian President Boris Yeltsin's democratic and economic reforms with hard cash, say Western officials.

But as they come to that harsh conclusion, the question that has plagued them for months remains: where will the money come from?

"We're looking for pots of money but there aren't that many around," said one U.S. official. President Bill Clinton and leaders of other industrial nations rushed out statements of support for Mr. Yeltsin and his reforms after the Russian leader attacked the country's conservative parliament head-on Saturday in a final struggle for power.

But analysts said that those words are likely to prove hollow if the Group of Seven — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — don't follow them up with specific promises of assistance.

Foreign and finance ministers from the G-7 are expected to meet next month to try to put together a package of support for Russia's economic reforms before the April 25 referendum called by Mr. Yeltsin to decide who rules the country.

Monetary sources said that Russia might need around \$14 billion in foreign financing this year to help buy essential imports and avoid a complete economic breakdown.

It won't be easy to find that sort of money. The finances of many of the G-7 nations, particularly the United States, Ger-

many, Italy and Britain, are already stretched and they will be hard-pressed to come up with new cash for Russia. The United States has said it plans to increase its aid for Russia in the fiscal 1994 U.S. budget that begins on Oct. 1 to 700 million from about \$300 million.

But to act sooner than that, the Clinton administration would have to declare a budget emergency — a move that might be hard to sell to a wary electorate demanding cuts in the bloated U.S. budget.

To try to get around the budgetary problems, the United

States and its allies are exploring using an obscure mechanism of the International Monetary Fund to aid Russia that is already in place but which is reserved for world financial emergencies.

The mechanism, known as the General Arrangements to Borrow, contains more than \$23 bil-

lion. But its terms would have to be altered by rich nations to allow it to be used to help Russian labourers thrown out of work by reforms or fund corporate restructuring by Russia's state-owned firms. U.S. officials said the administration is also trying to break the

Helping Russia

G-7 countries must put up or shut up on aid for Moscow



M. KAHIL

Settlements mushroom despite Rabin's pledge

Israeli building projects in the occupied territories boom in defiance of the U.S.

By Sarah Helm

JEWISH settlement in the Israeli-occupied territories is expanding rapidly, nine months after the election of the new Labour government which promised to cut back new settlement.

The policy of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has fallen far short of the significant curbs which were understood to be his intention when the U.S. released the first \$2 billion (£1.4 billion) slice of \$10 billion in loan guarantees after he was elected in June, according to Western analysts, Palestinian leaders and human rights monitors.

The U.S. undertook to guarantee commercial loans for building homes for new Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union, so long as these homes were not built in the occupied territories. Although no written conditions were attached to the U.S. decision to release the loan guarantees, analysts say the new U.S. administration does have discretion to top loans "dollar for dollar" if Israel spends them on settlements. The U.S. administration will have to decide ahead of the new financial year in October whether to penalise Israel for continued building by holding back sums from the next \$2 billion instalment.

U.S. loan guarantees were frozen when the previous Likud government was in power, in order to put pressure on Israel to halt its settlement drive in the lands seized during the Israeli-Arab war of 1967. A new dispute over U.S. loan guarantee would be highly embarrassing to the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak

Rabin, who counts Israel's improved relations with the U.S. as the prime achievement of his first months in office.

Evidence of continued building, and plans for building, suggest that Mr. Rabin has not entirely repudiated the Likud policies. Rather, he has rationalised and refocused settlement, concentrating less on building in remote West Bank areas which he calls "political" settlements, and continuing efforts to settle Jews on West Bank lands nearer Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin has promised not to build any new settlements. But Western observers say this pledge is a smokescreen. "With 144 settlements, many tiny, and scattered all over the West Bank, there is no need to build new ones. What we are watching is expansion of existing ones," said one analyst. Observers criticise Mr. Rabin's new settlement policy on three grounds: First, it is "delayed" not immediate; second it is "partial" and does not cover all occupied territories; and third, it is only a "slow down" and not a halt.

It is "delayed" because even in areas to which curbs will eventually apply, there is no evidence yet of any change. The prime minister made clear last summer that before he introduced any new curbs he would allow completion of 11,000 buildings which he says were started under the previous government and must be finished.

The number was less than the 16,000 planned by the Likud, Labour said, but it nevertheless constitutes the largest single

chunk of construction carried out by Israel in the occupied territories since 1967.

"The result is that at the moment it seems like a massive building boom out there," said one Western diplomat. Just filling the 11,000 units will increase the Jewish population in the West Bank and Gaza by 60,000. It is currently about 110,000.

The buildings are going up mostly in large settlements. But tiny settlements in remote areas are being quadrupled in size. The Jewish settlements of Eli, for example, near Nablus in the north, has 70 lived-in units now, and another 400 are currently under construction, according to figures produced by Peace Now, the Israeli pressure group.

Labour ministers describe this building as "residual." However, according to Peace Now, new building has also begun in several remote West Bank areas since June: in Itamar, near Nablus, in Naale near Ramallah in the central West Bank, and in Telem, near Hebron to the south.

It is not only the house building but road building which has continued. At eight-kilometre (five-mile) road has been completed since June between Eli and its neighbouring settlement of Shilo. A new road is being completed between the main road and Shilo. Peace Now says all this work is a waste of government funds because there is no demand to live in these remote settlements. As the government has promised to reduce incentives for people to live in these areas, the units will not be sold.

The intended cuts are only

"partial" because they do not apply to large tracts of the West Bank around Jerusalem or to annexed East Jerusalem. Here large-scale construction is continuing unabated, and the housing minister, Benjamin Ben Eliezer has made clear that he intends to intensify settlement in this area as soon as there are funds available.

Since he was elected, Mr. Rabin has defined a new Jerusalem boundary, which goes far wider than the existing municipal boundary, calling "greater Jerusalem" and stretching from Ramallah to the north to near Hebron in the south. On average this arbitrary boundary traces a 10-mile radius around the existing municipal boundary, although in some places it goes out even further. Inside it are the majority of the big West Bank settlements, and 70 per cent of the settler population.

According to Peace Now, as much as \$600 million is being spent on house construction and infrastructure in settlements, not including building in East Jerusalem and not including the cost to the government of financing incentives and security.

Finally, the settlement curb is only a "slowdown" because even in areas to which it does apply, it only applies to building activities which are using government funds. Private or municipal money can still be used to start new building, if the land is made available. Peace Now says there is already strong evidence of private house building in several West Bank settlements.

The Independent.

Australia's new era

By Michael Perry
Reuter

SYDNEY — Prime Minister Paul Keating's shock election win on March 13 confirmed a dramatic change in Australia's political landscape to which his Labour Party has astutely adapted, analysts say.

Mr. Keating's triumph has been hailed as one of the greatest political victories in Australian history and an extraordinary personal achievement which has made Labour appear the natural party of government.

A cornerstone of Mr. Keating's campaign was his hammering of the conservative Liberal-National coalition's unpopular plans for a 15 per cent consumption tax. Mr. Keating said the tax would wreck the country's egalitarian foundations.

But a more important factor, analysts say, was the evolution of Australian society, to which Labour adapted during its 10-year rule — unlike the conservatives.

Under former leader Bob Hawke and now Mr. Keating, Labour slowly shifted political ground, embracing a potpourri of newly important social and economic groups, such as women, migrants and artists as well as the party's traditional working-class core.

Former liberal leader John Howard, who will challenge opposition leader John Hewson in a party ballot Tuesday, admits Labour in the 1990s is far removed from its Socialist roots.

"The Labour Party... in the 1990s resonates more directly with the Social Democratic parties of Europe and the Democratic Party of the United States than it does to the old British Labour Party or the old Australian Labour Party," he said.

The Sydney Morning Herald

logjam that has held up an agreement to reschedule some \$80 million in foreign debt run up by the former Soviet Union.

Arrears on that debt have continued to pile up. Until they are sorted out through a rescheduling agreement, the United States faces big difficulties in extending new credits to Russia to buy American grain and other farm products.

"We have a problem," U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy said recently. "We want to feed our friend Russia, but American taxpayers should also expect that these commercial sales programmes have some integrity."

A rescheduling agreement has been partly held up because Russia and Ukraine have been unable to agree on who is responsible for paying the debt.

Faced with such difficulties in trying to put together a package of support for Russia, the G-7 already have begun sniping at each other over who is responsible.

Japan, which has been wary of extending aid to Moscow because of a long-standing territorial dispute dating back to the end of World War II, has taken much of the blame.

"We have to see clearly that the Japanese are the main obstacles," German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said in Bonn.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher admitted that any realistic programme to aid Russia "won't be cheap" but that the United States and its allies had little choice.

"We can't afford to do otherwise," Mr. Christopher told the World Affairs Council of Chicago. "This is the greatest strategic challenge of our time."

LETTERS

New trade rules?

To the Editor:

AS A keen reader of the continuing economic debate in the "Jordan Times" I take pleasure in sending you a copy of a new Shell publication "Liberalisation, Foreign Investment and Economic Growth" written by the chief economist of the Shell Group (see Weekender page A). I hope that it will provide useful data for your important debate about the future economic direction of Jordan.

As I observe the selective reinstatement of tariff protection, e.g. for detergents, I wonder if Jordan industry will ever be forced to become efficient. I have visited Syria and Saudi Arabia frequently during the past three years and I have to register that there is a formidable arsenal of private industry building in both countries, that is setting new competitive levels for this region. Too many Jordanian companies seem not to be preparing themselves for that competition (e.g. detergents), as national bureaucracies break down.

"This is a period of transition for both governments and companies. It is a period of turbulence for many industries as the rules of their marketplace change..." says Shell publication. Is enough being done in Jordan to raise the eyes of industrialists to this new horizon?

Living in hopes of a return to the old Iraqi protocol has to be a highly questionable corporate strategy, yet it remains dominant. When a new order emerges in Iraq it will be by necessity more in private hands (the state being seriously short of funds), and the probability is that trading patterns will be different e.g. crude oil exports via the pipeline across Syria, more goods from Turkey. At a time when there is much discussion here about a woman's place in society I am pleased to be sending a paper written by a woman.



W.E.N. Craig,
Shell Chemicals,
Amman.

Weekender

Liberalisation, foreign investment and economic growth

By DeAnne Julius

The mood in developing countries has changed. The 1960s talk of "export pessimism" — the notion that open trade would penalise poorer countries — has gone. Now the trade-oriented successes of Korea and Hong Kong are models to be emulated.

Gone is the view of the 1970s that direct investment by foreign companies means exploitation and economic dependency. Nationalisation of industries has proved far less successful than, for example, the growth strategies of Singapore and Taiwan — both led by foreign direct investment (FDI).

Going too, if not already gone, is the frustration and despair caused by the debt burdens of the 1980s. Countries such as Chile and Mexico have shown that there is a way out. Renewing stable growth is the key, and this is being achieved partly by attracting foreign investment and flight capital back into the country. The privatisation of state-owned companies and debt/equity swaps have sped the process.

The new mood is one of optimism and pragmatism — a determination to try new policies and to make up for lost time.

The growth of FDI that has occurred globally over the last decade is quite remarkable. Between 1982 and 1992 total FDI flows grew at an average annual rate of more than 20 per cent. Most of this growth took place among the industrialised countries of Europe, North America and Japan. But recently, FDI into Latin America and Asia has also begun to increase.

This paper discusses global trends in FDI from the point of view of the private investor and examines the new role of governments in creating the right conditions for investment. It also looks to the future. If the new mood in the developing countries can be translated into new and sustained policies that promote private sector investment — both domestic and foreign — what might this mean for cross-border investment flows and economic growth?

From an international company's point of view, trade and foreign investment are simply two ways to reach a foreign market. The company may invest and produce at home, and export its product. Alternatively it may invest, produce and sell directly in that foreign market. In practice, there are many combinations between these extremes. But whatever the particular combination, for the private sector, trade and FDI are two reinforcing ways to reach and link distant markets.

Large international companies exhibit complex and varied patterns of investments and production across their markets. More than a quarter of international trade involves cross-border shipment of goods between parts of the same company.

For most of the post-war period, trade was the dominant link between markets. Following successive rounds of trade liberalisation through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), world trade grew

rapidly, and economic growth followed.

In the early 1980s, however, a new dynamic took over. Led by the United States, Britain and Japan, the developed countries began to liberalise the largest and most heavily regulated part of their economies: Their service sectors. These sectors were opened to international competition and a wave of foreign investment rushed in to take advantage of the new opportunities. Because services such as banking and telecommunications are hard to trade directly, FDI was the preferred route. As a result, since 1982, global FDI has been growing four times as fast as world trade (Figure 1).

In 1990, world trade totalled \$3.8 trillion. By comparison the production of foreign-owned firms in other countries was \$4.4 trillion. Of the two ways to reach foreign markets, international production has become more important than international trade. While there are many particular companies and countries for which this is not true, in the case of the USA, U.S.-owned affiliates abroad sell more than twice as much as the country exports.

The ultimate vision, linking trade and investment, is that of one world market. Just as the nations of the world are learning to see the physical environment as one interrelated whole — as they affirmed at the Rio Conference in 1992 — so they may come to recognise the immense benefits that would be created from a single world market in which all compete and consume.

That may seem a distant vision, but parts of it are

This example illustrates how an integrated world market may eventually develop for many other products and service sectors. In such a market, the consumer — the individual or the firm — can select exactly the right product from a range of world-class suppliers. And the producer — even of the most specialised niche product — can reach enough customers worldwide to make a profit. The growth and productivity benefits of such specialisation and global competition are hard to overestimate.

Today, the question for governments is how to capture the benefits of global competition. What kind of policies can induce the private sector — both domestic and foreign — to invest in and trade from a particular country?

This is not just a question for the governments of developing countries. Over the last year, it has been an important part of the political debate in the USA, in Sweden, in Britain, and now in Germany. According to a German government spokesman, the Solidarity Pact talks among politicians, trade unions and industry aim "to ensure the competitiveness of Germany as an investment location in the 1990s".

However, for the Less Developed Countries (LDCs), the question of how to attract private investment is particularly important. Their experience of the 1980s is not an encouraging one. While the developing countries as a group just maintained their share of world trade (Figure 2), they attracted very little of the much larger increase in world FDI (Figure 3).

— together with procedures to enforce it;

- Building a high calibre public administration, free of corruption;
- Making the currency convertible;
- Simplifying the tax system; and
- Cutting tariffs and removing trade quotas.

Much of this involves new legislation to dismantle old barriers, both within the country itself and with its trade partners. The increasing participation of LDCs in the GATT negotiations and the growing number signing bilateral investment treaties are encouraging moves in this direction.

Through bitter experience, economists know how risky it is to predict the future. Instead of predictions, one large company approach to strategic planning is to use scenarios. These scenarios are "stories" about alternative possible futures and what they would mean for the business. These are not forecasts, but are built with a "what if" logic that proceeds from assumptions derived from the present, to implications about a certain kind of future. If such an approach is used to develop a scenario for FDI over the next 30 years, what would this "picture" of the future reveal? What would be the impact on economic growth in the developing countries of the liberalisation process now underway?

Thirty years may seem a surprisingly long perspective to take for this exercise. However the time horizon should not fit the issue under analysis. The decision to invest in a foreign country is viewed by most companies as a serious long-term commitment. It is a commitment not just of shareholders' capital, but also of other scarce resources, such as technical expertise and management time.

All these costs are incurred from the outset of the venture, while the benefits generally accrue only over the subsequent years. In the meantime, in addition to the usual technical and commercial risks that an investment at home faces, there will be foreign exchange risks and unfamiliar macroeconomic and political risks associated with foreign investments.

For all these reasons, foreign investment decisions require a long-term perspective.

Over the long term, it is likely that FDI will be driven by the same forces that were at work in the 1980s. The fastest growing sectors and recipient countries were those where the policy environment had been liberalised. In the 1980s, these were the service sectors in the industrialised countries; for example, the deregulated banks and privatised telecommunications companies.

Where is policy liberalisation likely to proceed fastest and furthest in the 1990s? It is impossible to predict, but one plausible scenario is that it will be in the developing countries. Chile was one of the first to set itself on the path of market-oriented development. That path inevitably includes a greater role for the private sector and more open policies towards trade and foreign investment. In many other countries — both in Latin America and beyond — the shift towards economic liberalisation is gathering force.

A key effect of successful economic liberalisation is to raise the return on investment. By freeing business from unnecessary regulation, and stimulating competition between public and private sectors, the productivity of investment will increase, and will:

- Yield more output per dollar invested; and

Figure 1

Cross-border flows

Index (1975 = 100, constant prices)

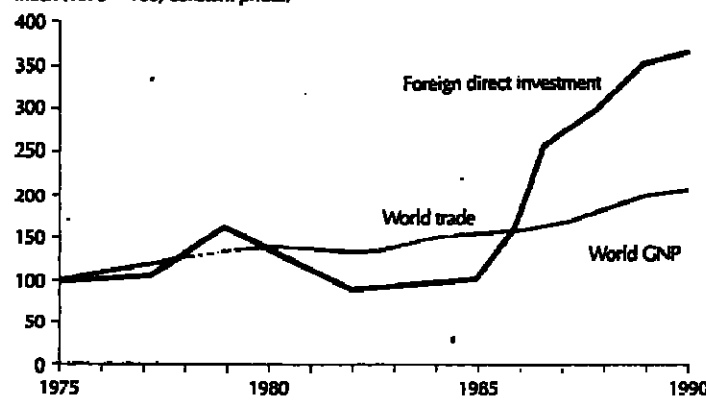


Figure 2

World trade

Billions of US\$

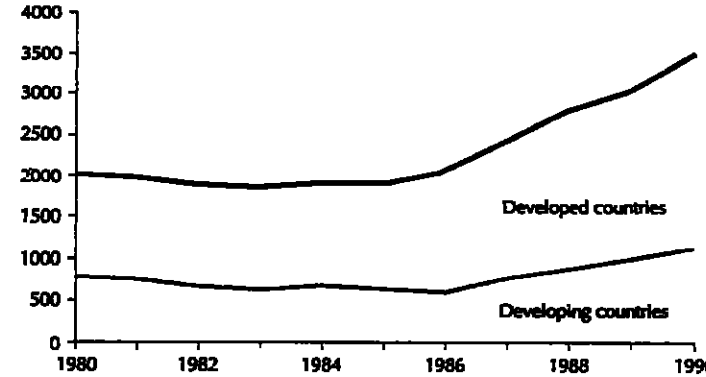
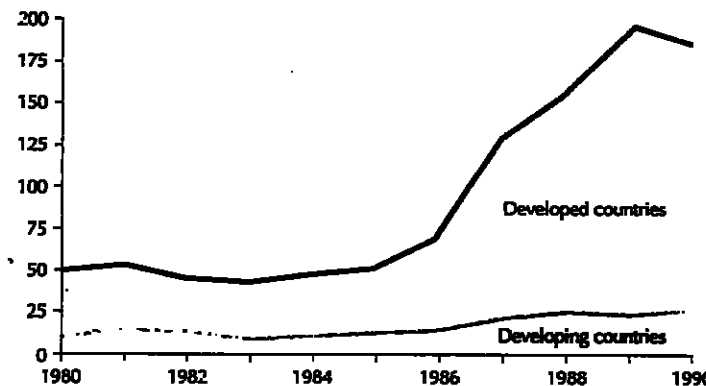


Figure 3

Foreign direct investment

Billions of US\$



Stimulate a higher share of investment out of total income.

Governments around the world are taking steps to liberalise their economies, opening up new opportunities for business. Companies around the world are reassessing their investment strategies, seeking to better position themselves for the global market that is emerging. This is a period of transition for both governments and companies. It is a period of turbulence for many industries as the rules of their marketplace change and as new competitors enter. New patterns of specialisation, both for companies and for countries, will eventually take shape, but the process is too dynamic and complex to be foreseen clearly.

At the core of this process is FDI.

Together with trade, it is a key vehicle for the integration of markets across national borders. After the rapid growth of FDI during the last decade, international production — the result of FDI — is now larger than international trade. Governments of rich and poor countries alike have become convinced that their long-term growth and employment prospects depend on creating an attractive climate for private investment — both from domestic and foreign sources.

If the impressive progress in liberalisation made by developing countries can be sustained, then the coming decades may bring an equally impressive shift in cross-border investment towards those countries. By the year 2020, half of the world FDI could be attracted to developing countries, compared to less than 20 per cent today. The total inflow to LDCs could be some 13 times larger, in real terms, than it was in 1990. Such flows could support, and are consistent

with, economic growth in the developing world of 5-6 per cent per year.

To bring about such a scenario requires long-term commitment.

Companies must commit their shareholders' capital, their technology and their skilled people to develop new business in distant markets. Governments must commit to continuing the politically difficult process of economic liberalisation: To opening sector after sector of the economy to new competitors, both domestic and foreign.

If such commitments can be made and kept, then together we can reap the growth potential from building an increasingly integrated world community.



DeAnne Julius received her PhD in economics in 1975 from the University of California. Dr. Julius spent seven years with the World Bank, becoming economic advisor of its Energy Department. In 1982 she joined Logan Associates, Inc. as managing director. In 1986, she became director of economics at the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House, in London, where part of her research focused on foreign direct investment. Dr. Julius has published five books and many articles in the fields of international economics and natural resource pricing and planning.

Diary

ON ELECTIONS AND ELECTIONEERING: The Muslim Brotherhood movement, as should be expected, does not need early campaigning for the next national elections. It is strong enough to just start early preparations for the campaign, and that is exactly what the Brothers seem to be doing. According to candidates who have felt the pangs of the tactics of this preparation, the movement has periodically spread the rumour that a certain candidate, say Mr. X, none other than an Islamist from a prominent tribe in a particular constituency, is going to be their candidate in the elections. Immediately the other prospective candidates would start attacking, even slandering, Mr. X, until they alienate his whole tribe. Then the movement would spread another rumour that they don't think that Mr. X is really the man they want so they are going to nominate Mr. Z, who happens to be from another important tribe. The other candidates, as if on cue, begin campaigning against Mr. Z using the same methods they used with Mr. X, and before long the other prospective candidates find themselves in a bind. By attacking tribal scions they will have alienated many families from their region, leaving their votes to hang in the balance. In the meantime the movement has not actually announced its real candidate and thus has increased the likelihood that the alienated tribes will vote for him. "I actually responded to their tactics for a while before I realised that I was actually undermining my own strength among voters with only the slightest effort by the Brotherhood's tacticians," one prospective candidate said. "Now I have learnt my lesson, and whenever their rumour mill is working I just turn oblivious to what is happening around me."

ELECTIONS MEMORABILIA: Before the fever of the upcoming elections reaches a high pitch, a deputy who intends to stand for reelection tells the Diary why there are many more candidates than seats at poll time. "You tell these people (candidates) that they are not going to win and they should save their money and effort but to no avail," he says. "They want to run like crazy." But then our friend, the deputy, stops for a minute and reflects. "The mesmerising effect of seeing one's picture and signs carrying your name strewn all around town is fun," he recalls. "I remember I used to go out driving very late at night and flash the lights of my car on my pictures and just look, totally enchanted." Of course, he does not fail to mention that "my moments of dreaming did not make me miss the reality of my standing. I won."

BACK ON TRACK: Not long ago the diary reported that a certain journalist who works for a weekly newspaper was arrested for forcing a homosexual act on a minor. At the time the controversy was not just that he was a well-known journalist, not that he was homosexual, and not that he picked up the boy off the street after he accepted a measly JD 3 for the act. The funny part was that the boy was able to place a complaint against the journalist at the police station and get out scot-free because he was a minor. Now the updated news is that the whole case was dropped. Why? Reportedly because the journalist could not be made solely responsible for this behaviour especially since the act was done with the consent of the boy. There is of course no such forgiving or lenient law, say, in the U.S., but it is possible anywhere that the boss of any man committing a crime of misdemeanor would visit him at his house after he is released from prison? This is exactly what happened to our unfortunate, unlucky and unabashed colleague.

SCOOPS, SCOOPS: While on the subject of the journalists and the press, Akhbar Al Usbou weekly newspaper scooped both television and the government this past week. On the first count, the weekly criticised television not only for running prize-winning Ramadan quizzes but also for the sale of the answers to these quizzes in bookstores for a certain amount of money in broad daylight. To make sure that no one gets an unfair advantage, the weekly published in full the answers, which are of course supposed to be kept secret until the fasting month is over, naturally for the benefit of those "who still follow these (silly) programmes." That was one scoop. The other scoop was a bit more ambiguous. Two days before the newspaper was to produce its next edition, its editor-in-chief joined other newspaper editors for an off-the-record meeting with a very senior official. Those meetings are usually limited to the four daily newspapers, precisely because bigger group meetings meant bigger and certain leaks. Probably sensing the off-the-record briefing will filter to the public eventually anyway, Akhbar Al Usbou was quick to divulge even its tiniest details. The newspaper, however, was clever enough to compartmentalise the details, publishing each bit on one page but in a different space, under different headlines. The senior official must indeed be pleased that his time was not wasted.

GUFFAW AT HOME: The Jordan Times is known to shun sensationalism and to stick to ethics and quality in presenting news and views. No such luck was encountered in one story published last week, however. A story headlined "Jordan banks stay cool to CD scheme" and published on the economy page of the March 21 issue, quoted a banker who the writer described by the word "intelligent", implying that the Central Bank of Jordan launched dollar denominated certificates of deposit only to create a post for someone who had just returned from the Gulf. On this particular point, the writer must have also felt compelled to tell readers that he knew who that person was but had "withheld" his name. Naturally, the Central Bank called to complain, not about the story per se, but about the writer's innovation in writing that particular paragraph. The editor and the rest of the staff could not but agree with the complaint. The inclusion of this item here is, needless to say, our way of apology for the guffaw.

Nermeen Murad

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

You cannot climb the ladder of success with cold feet of fear — ANONYMOUS.

Words are the most powerful drug used by mankind. Rudyard Kipling, English writer (1865-1936).

FDI inflows

1990 \$bn

(%) Share of Total Investment

OECD

Non-OECD

1980

1990

2000

2010

2020

(1.5)

(3.7)

(4.7)

(5.5)

(6.4)

1980

1990

2000

2010

2020

(1.5)

(3.7)

(4.7)

(5.5)

(6.4)

1980

1990

2000

2010

2020

Computer's lullaby

By Jean-Claude Elias

Personal computers (PCs) are everywhere. In your office, at home, at school, even on your lap — laptop computers are so trendy — and in your pocket sometimes. It won't be long before we all wear them like wrist-watches.

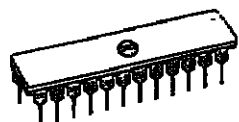
With all the pressure people are facing everyday in order to increase their computer awareness and literacy, it is only natural to see parents anxious to make their children learn about PCs at a very young age, so that they — the kids — would avoid the frustration, the pain and fear they — the folks — have been through when they fought hard to understand and tame the machine.

Some educators consider that learning to use PCs is like starting a musical instrument: the earlier the better. Therefore, children as young as five or six are sometimes placed before the computer, their tiny fingers on the keyboard in the worst case, or on the mouse in the best, staring at the monitor, and waiting for some character like Bart Simpson to appear. Since children younger than eight or nine cannot fluently read or write, all they can do is move the mouse, select icons — small drawn symbols — and use simple graphic and painting programmes.

Once they can really read and write meaningful sentences, children can start using simple word processing, calculation and run so-called "educational programmes". Other interesting software to run for the young are music programmes. These can be very efficient to teach them music and are great fun to use at the same time. Games are obviously an important part of what kids do with PCs. However, they are not the only ones who enjoy them, adults being as addicted to games as the young are. Moreover, playing games is not really "computing" and won't increase anybody's knowledge in programming, informatics or cybernetics.

Teenagers can actually use computers like adults, except for very specialised topics like Computer Aided Design or

chip talk



complicated calculations. In fact, learning programming at 13 or 14 is ideal and computer "whiz kids" are known to be the best in writing — programming — games, cracking passwords, and de-protecting software!

The absolutely positive point in making very young people use computers is enabling them to feel comfortable and become familiar with the machine. This is essential for their future professional contact with PCs, whatever the trade or profession they choose. However, the usefulness of the available software, the way it is used and the recommended age for specific programmes is neither proven nor established yet. As in music education, there is a need for a curriculum in teaching computer to the young, and there is no such thing for the time being. Most of the software which is developed is the work of independent software companies looking more at the cash side than at the real educational benefit. There are some publishers in Europe and the USA who by tradition are well known for their educational books and printed publications, and who recently started producing quality educational software for children. If this is a good step forward, there is still a need for a systematic computer educational programme that, similar to books at school, would be available by grades, and that parents and educators could refer to them in full confidence.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BONERS

- LIPTON is the capital of Ceylon.
- FRANCE was ruled by prefixes and suffixes.
- THERE ARE two methods of becoming an American — to be born one, to be neutralised.
- HOW MANY wars were waged against Spain?
- Six
- Enumerate them.
- One, two, three, four, five, six.
- THE PLURAL of forget-me-not is forget-us-not.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TANTALIZING FACTS

- ★ TATTOO designs on the human body can be removed only by removing the skin itself.
- ★ A SHEEP is considered to be the most stupid creature in the world of zoology.
- ★ EARLIEST wristwatches date from 1790.
- ★ SEVEN countries of the world have flags of red, white and blue.
- ★ CHINESE TYPEWRITERS are so complex that even a skilled operator cannot type at a rate of more than three or four words per minute.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- Is Ajloun far from here? Hal Ajloun ba'eeda min hona?
- How much will it cost? Kam el-ojra?
- I want to go and come back. Ayez arrooh war'ja.
- Will you wait for me there? Mumkin tistannani honak?
- Slow down! Khaffif el-sor'a.
- Please wait here for a moment. Min fadlak istanna hona lahza.
- I'll be right back. Raj'i ala tool.
- Turn left here. Dur ala shimalak min hona.
- ★ Right. Yameen
- ★ Straight on. Doghri
- Stop here! Qift hona!
- I'll get out here. Ana nazel hona.
- Thank you. Shukran laka.

JOKES

"What time do you serve meals?" asked a tourist at a hotel in Rome.
"Breakfast - 7 to 11, Lunch - 12 to 3, Dinner - 6 to 9", replied the receptionist.
The tourist shook his head. "That doesn't leave much time for sight-seeing," was his comment.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A man was visiting a work-mate in the hospital.
"You've been missed at the factory. Bill, everybody's been talking about you. Why, only the other day, the boss said to me, 'what's happened to what's his name?'"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

— A four-year-old child walked into his house one day carrying a worm.
"What are you doing with that worm?" declared his mother.
"We were playing outside," replied the boy, "and I thought I should show him my room."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- Poor man: "Have you got meat?"
- Butcher: "Yes, of course."
- Poor man: "How lucky you are!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ A young mother thought it was time to stop her little boy from thumb-sucking, and she decided to use psychology. "Now, tell me, Johnny, does your thumb taste good?"
"No," the boy admitted.
"Is it good to chew on?"
The boy shook his head.
"Then what is good about sucking your thumb?"
"Well, the boy said after some thought, "it's non-fattening!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

At a banquet: "Well, did they like your speech after the dinner?"

"Rather, when I sat down everybody said it was the best thing I'd ever done."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What is a ship's load called?
2. What animal is called "BRUIN"?
3. What are fiddle strings made of?
4. What dog rescues lost travellers on the Alps?
5. What is meant by "as the crow flies"?
6. What is a junk?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

CAMEL: You will have to work hard and diligently to overcome your obstacles if your dream involved one (or more) of these hardy animals, unless it (or they) carried a burden, in which case there is some unexpected wealth, possibly in the form of an inheritance, coming your way. If you were riding on a camel or saw them in a herd, your future is very bright indeed.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DOG: As a general rule dogs in a dream are a good omen and symbolise friends. Of course the interpretation varies according to the action and other details but is fairly straightforward. If the dog was friendly and affectionate, it signifies pleasure and happy times with friends; a fierce or snarling dog suggests disagreements or untrustworthy friends; and if it bit or attacked, you are being warned to look out for actual deceit or harmful trickery from someone you have trusted. To hear a dog bark happily signifies pleasing social recognition, but if it barked fiercely, you are being warned of possible legal troubles, so don't fiddle your taxes or park your car too close to a hydrant. To see dogs fighting indicates that you may be called on to arbitrate in an argument between friends, in which case you must be extra tactful to avoid ending up the odd man out. If the dog in your dream was an exceptionally large one, it signifies protection through a powerful friend.

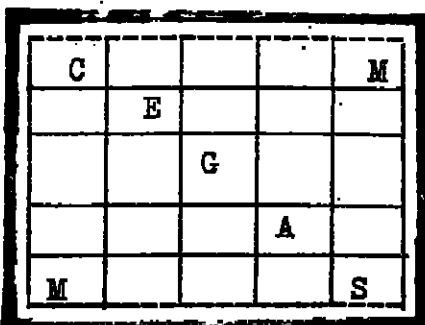
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

- (A) The pulp of a cherry around the stone is as thick as the stone itself. Let us assume that the cherry and the stone are round. Can you calculate mentally how much more pulp than stone there is in the cherry?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- (B) MAKE FIVE WORDS reading across, and the same five words reading down.



The golden girl

By E. Yaghi

Years ago when Fatmeh's son returned from America with his new foreign wife and small children, something phenomenal happened. Fatmeh never once thought that her son's wife was a stranger or that the small vulnerable children did not belong to her. Right away, she took them all under her wing and began the first fierce endeavours that was to continue for many years of protecting them from their external environment. Her daughter-in-law was different, admittedly so, but she was after all kin and therefore automatically one of the family. As soon as it was feasible, Fatmeh took to "raising" her son's wife and doting over her grandchildren. Even though she had a lot of other grandchildren and these were but a few in a procession of many, for some reason, these four young ones who had come from such a long distance had penetrated her heart more than any of the other children.

Before coming to Jordan, Fatmeh and her husband had been made refugees from the Zionist invasion of their home country, "the land of milk and honey" and were forced, along with their small children to try to make a living any way possible so they could survive. Sometimes they farmed, sometimes they ran a little supermarket until they saved enough money to buy a plot of land here in Amman. Gone forever were the fragrant orange orchards, the fruit trees, the lush water-melon patch and the self-sustaining garden. Gone too, was Smokey their faithful dog who refused to join them in their forced exile and went back to their plantation to await their going home. Those lost days of walking to the sea became just a memory and all that remained with Fatmeh and her family was only the will to survive and eke out a meager existence the best they could.

After she and her older husband scratched, skimped and saved enough money to build a house in Amman, Fatmeh and her family arrived in an old truck piled high with simple and cherished belongings and kids. As soon as possible, they built a two-room cement house and planted grapes, olive trees, cheery trees, peach, plum, mulberry, lemon and even pomegranate trees. In short, their piece of land, which was half a dunum, was a tiny heaven and haven away from the hustle and bustle of the outside world, and a Palestine in miniature. It was surrounded by high cement walls and guarded by a blue painted iron door.

When Fatmeh's second oldest son won a scholarship to America, she cried to her sister: "Yes, I am very proud, but when will I ever see him again? He's going so far away over a great ocean to strange people!"

The day he left, all Fatmeh's and her husband's relatives came to see him off. It was like a wedding and for at least a mile, cars drove bumper to bumper all the way to the airport to say good-bye to the first member of their clan to travel overseas. When her son boarded the plane, her husband sat in a corner by himself, silently crying while she covered her face with her scarf and let trickle undetected tears. When she approached her son to kiss him farewell, she waved him off with a stern, "you're a man now and you have to depend on yourself! Don't worry about us and may God be with you!" even though her heart was torn in two.

For seven years, the only contact she had with her son was a few letters that came in grey envelopes with U.S. stamps every once in a while. One letter proclaimed his wedding to an American girl, one, the birth of his first baby and so on until the fateful letter which announced the departure of her son and his family. "At last," she heaved a sigh of relief "My son is coming home. Finally we will get to see him, his wife and his children!"

And when he did come, Fatmeh's small two room house almost burst at the seams from all the relatives that flocked to see the return of the man who married an American. For days they crammed into the yard and house and issued invitations to the returnee and his family.

Fatmeh had much to attend to and her face shone with pride and happiness. Since her grandchildren and her daughter-in-law spoke only English at first, all communication between them and their Arab counterparts was in gestures, nods and smiles. Whenever one of her "new" grandchildren was unhappy or cried for "home" she was there to soothe and comfort the sufferer and envelop the child in her arms and heart. It was not long before the children began to call her "yama," instead of "grandma," and their grandfather became "yaba" not "grandfather."

When Fatmeh's son found work in Saudi Arabia he set off to settle down in his job. His family however, remained behind with Fatmeh and her husband.

With time, Fatmeh grew increasingly defensive concerning her grandchildren and their mother. Whenever anyone called the youngsters, "the American woman's kids," she was right there to box their ears for them.

"What was that? she would demand. "Just what did you say? How dare you call them names! They are no different than you. Now leave them alone!"

And so time passed. The four American born began to learn Arabic and attended public schools. Later, their number grew to eight and Fatmeh really had her hands full teaching them the customs and traditions of their forefathers. She constantly told them Arab stories, took them for long walks and attentively listened to their experiences at school. She was always there to give advice and to care wounded pride. The time even came when few dared to call them, "the sons of the American woman."

As for her daughter-in-law, Fatmeh was always there too, ready to give advice on cooking and just what pleased or insulted the Arab people.

The American's children are pretty much grown up now and that "golden girl," Fatmeh has become much older. That first plot of land in Amman on which all kinds of trees were planted is no longer the place she calls "home." And the old husband who lovingly tended those luscious fruit trees has long since passed away, leaving his wife a widow. She has chosen to spend her remaining years with her now retired son and his American wife and those of her grandchildren that are left at home. Well, she is looking swell and is a grand elderly dame who successfully crossed the twain between East and West and concludes: "I raised my daughter-in-law to be what she is today and I am as proud of her as any of my own daughters and love her as much. I am also very proud of my son and his children. Taking care of them was very difficult, but it was worth it!"

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, March 25

8:30 Chance In A Million

Tom and his girlfriend Alison are harassed while they are in a box.

9:10 Forever Green

Jack and Harriet fix themselves in a new society that they have chosen. Harriet in her turn succeeds in socialising with her new neighbours.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Hello Again

Starring: Shelley Long

This film tells the story of a famous surgeon, David, whose wife Lucy has recently died. Her sister attempts to revive her spirit. Lucy's spirit is in for a big surprise when she sees the changes that have occurred in her husband's life.

Friday, March 26

8:30 Billy

Billy receives a large bill from the vets clinic for treating a wounded bird that the kids had found.

9:10 E.N.G.

The news team from Channel 10 reports live the shooting of a famous black leader when he comes out of a meeting.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Maternity Of The Heart

This is a love story about a divorced music teacher in her forties and a 22-year-old gifted musician.

Saturday, March 27

8:30 Super Bloopers

9:00 Perspective

9:30 Documentary — Space



Who's The Boss Sunday at 8:30

On Earth Buildings And People

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Tell Me No Lies

Starring: Steven Weber and Katherine Helmond

Terry Milner loses his wife Amanda in a car accident. He tries to adopt her son, Joy, who is 8 years old only to discover that everything Amanda told him were lies.

Sunday, March 28

8:30 Who's The Boss?

Tony goes with the family to Washington to defend senior citizens against cuts in medical funds.

9:10 Equinox

A Strange Case of Crop Circles

This episode is about the strange case of crop circles in England since 1980.

10:00 News In English

Monday, March 29

8:30 Step By Step

Daddy's Girl

Frank's father decides to get married. But Frank does not accept this idea and tries to convince his father against it.

9:10 Martin Bey

10:00 News In English

10:20 Local Programme

10:40 Vietnam

The minister's family reunite after the war.

Tuesday, March 30

8:30 The Powers That Be

After getting drunk, Bradley decided to marry a 55-year-old woman.

9:10 Dirtwater Dynasty

Richard discovers by accident that his daughter is still alive but she is not very

Wednesday, March 31

8:30 Saved By The Bell

Zak's knee gets hurt and he goes to hospital. He gets scared and refused to have an operation.

9:00 Local Programme

9:30 After Us The Deluge

Refuse And Waste

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Prison Stories

Woman On The Inside

Starring: Talisa Soto

The film focuses on three women in prison.

Eddie Murphy putting his wild days behind him

By Matt Spetalnick
Reuter

HOLLYWOOD — As a brash, street-wise young comedian rising to stardom in the 1980s, Eddie Murphy gained notoriety for his raw humour and playboy exploits.

Now, at age 31, Hollywood's bad boy of comedy says he's ready to put his wild days behind him.

"You go through a period where the most important things are being the coolest, being the baddest, being on the who's hot list and having a nice car," he told Reuters in a recent interview. "I think I have my priorities straight now."

Murphy, who declared during the 1987 concert film *Raw* that the only woman he would trust would be one he found sitting "buck naked on a zebra in Africa," is kissing

his bachelorhood goodbye. He and 24-year-old model Nicole Mitchell, who already have had two children together, were married last Thursday evening in New York.

The ceremony at the Plaza Hotel near Central Park was planned for 500 guests, including Quincy Jones, Donald Trump, Bruce Willis, Bill Murray, Arsenio Hall, Robert Townsend, Stevie Wonder, Wayne Newton, Queen Latifah, Sugar Ray Leonard and Paramount head Sherry Lansing.

After a recent series of box-office flops, Murphy is also vowing to get his film career back on track.

"No more bad movies," he said from behind a pair of sunglasses as he stretched out in a poolside lounge chair at Hollywood's Bel Age Hotel. "I promise you, no more bad movies."

Murphy, whose films have grossed nearly \$2 billion, was once nothing less than box-office magic.

He was barely into his 20s when he joined the Saturday Night Live show, becoming the hottest TV comedian since John Belushi. As heir to the lacerating comic style of Richard Pryor, he dazzled audiences with parodies of racial stereotypes such as his grumpy Buckwheat and his street pimp Velvet Jones.

Breaking into film, Murphy starred in a series of blockbusters — *Trading Places*, *Beverly Hills Cop*, *The Golden Child*, *Beverly Hills Cop 2* and *Coming To America*.

His movies attracted such crowds that he earned the nickname "Money". But his box-office appeal started slipping in the late 1980s.

Last summer's *Boomerang*, Murphy's bid to gradu-

ate from portraying street-smart con men to playing more sophisticated leading men, won praise from critics but failed to draw big audiences. His Christmas movie, *The Distinguished Gentleman*, has been another disappointment.

Besides his troubles at the box office, Murphy has seen his reputation tarnished by reports of ego trips, lateness on the set and an Elvis-style entourage of cronies and bodyguards.

He faced a paternity suit in 1987, sexual harassment allegations two years later and was then caught up in a humorous Art Buchwald's highly publicised suit against Paramount Pictures challenging Murphy's authorship of *Coming To America*.

Critics accused him of being out of step with the times for his performance in *Raw*, a marathon standup

routine in which he railed against women and homosexuals.

But Murphy says it was all part of growing up and insists he has mellowed with age.

"I went through all the things every guy goes through, except I was on camera," he said. "I was on stage doing *Raw* and I was this mad kid with a leather glove with a ring on the outside acting like a jerk."

Murphy, who has long relished his image as a love-em-and-leave-em rogue and once said his philosophy with women was "my way or the highway," says he is now ready to settle down.

His top priority, he says, is his family — wife Mitchell, three-year-old daughter Bria and four-month-old son Miles. "It's about growth, falling in love, having children, being a happy person, being more content," he said.

Murphy, who once sneered at Spike Lee's criticism that he was not using his studio clout to help blacks in Hollywood, says he is now interested in working on a film with the outspoken black director. "Black artists have to integrate the movie business," he said.

With *Beverly Hills Cop 3* headed for the theatres later this year, Murphy said he plans to break into serious drama with a film version of *Fences*, August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play. He hopes to sign up John Singleton as director.

Murphy has just come out with a new album, *Love's Alright*, and said he may embark on a European concert tour with Bon Jovi this summer. That would be followed by a U.S. tour in which he would combine singing with his first standup appearances in six years, he said.



Actor Eddie Murphy and his wife model Nicole Mitchell pose for photographers after their wedding on March 18 (AFP photo)

The flamboyant career of Jeanne Moreau

By Pierre Lambert

The Mostar of Venice 92 recently awarded the actress Jeanne Moreau a Golden Lion for the whole of her career. It is a fine homage and the first of this kind awarded by the Biennale.

PARIS — In Europe she is known as the Jeanne. In Hollywood, she is "the Voice". This star of the 60s, who played the venomous and superb Eva in *Losey's* film, today accepts the wrinkles of a 60-year-old to devote herself, body and soul, to her profession.

Very early on, this daughter of a restaurant owner and a dancer at the Folies Bergères revolted against her milieu: "I could not bear the society that I discovered through my adolescent eyes," she evokes. Her parents wanted her to become a civil servant. But she only dreamt of the theatre and cinema.

At the age of 18, she signed on for drama lessons at the Conservatoire. She found a furnished flat in a building

inhabited by prostitutes: "I saw brutal, venal passions going on around me. I have memories of grief, tears and violence." At the Conservatoire, I was surrounded by superb girls who had breasts (I myself didn't have any) and who wore silk stockings (I didn't have any).

On the other hand, Jeanne did have talent. So, after a few small parts in Jean Vilar's "Théâtre National Populaire", at the age of 20 she was accepted in the Comédie Française. Then she worked in boulevard theatre where her name got bigger on the bills. In 1950, she made her screen debut next to personalities such as Fernandel and Gabin. She appeared quite at ease in light comedy and confirmed the impact of her undeniable eroticism.

Fascinating

1957 was her great year. Louis Malle made her the star of *Ascenseur Pour l'Echafaud* and especially of *Amants*, whose boldness led to a pretty scandal. She thus became a star. The public discovered a fascinating, sensual Jeanne Moreau who made the parts she played ring true, a phenomenon as yet unknown in French cinema.

From then on, she shot to fame, giving the best of herself in difficult parts. She left her mark on films such as *Liaisons Dangereuses* by Vadim (1959), the delightful *Jules Et Jim* by Truffaut (1962), and *Viva Maria* by Louis Malle (1965) where she fought for top billing with Brigitte Bardot. In *La Mariée Etait En Noir* (The Bride Wore Black) (Truffaut 1968) she put on a marvellous performance in a poetic and somber rôle.

For foreign filmmakers, and some of the greatest too, she acted, in Rome, in *La Notte* by Antonioni (1961), then, in Hollywood, The

Train by Frankheimer (1964), *The Trial* (1962) and *Falstaff* (1966) by Orson Welles, and *The Last Tycoon* by Kazan (1967). She was also the heroine in Bunuel's *Journal D'Une Femme De Chambre* (Diary of a Chambermaid), Fassbinder's *Querel* (1982) and *Losey's La Truite* the same year.

They were splendid years for the star who made three to four films a year, with Rolls-Royces, furs, grand couturiers and love affairs. Jeanne Moreau was beautiful and adulated and she enjoyed life to the full: "It was my nature to live intensely and to always go towards what is new", while always maintaining her freedom, a key-word for Jeanne who only allowed herself to be guided by her pleasure.

In 1975, a new Jeanne Moreau appeared, this time as a director. Her film, *Light*, tells a story about women and resembles her: Elegant, true and full of contained emotion. It was a successful experience which made her want to have another go.

A dazzling come-back

Then there came a gap in her career, until her dazzling comeback in the late 80s. She portrayed José Pinheiro's *La Femme Fardée*, an ageing singer who treats herself to very young men.

Then in 1991, she was once again present at the Cannes Film Festival with two films in which she acted: *Anna Karamazov*, shot in Leningrad by a young Uzbek director, Rustan Khamdamov, and *Le Pas Suspendu De La Cigogne* by Theo Angelopoulos. These two works gained her laudatory reviews.

She then played a part full of humour and tenderness, that of the Old Lady Who Walked In the Sea by Laurent Heyneman and a very austere part in *Absence*, the film directed by Peter Handke, presented in Venice in 1992.

But Jeanne Moreau has, above all, triumphed on stage in the last few years, first of all in *Le Récit De La Servante Zélie* (The Tale Of The Maid Zélie), based on the work by Herman Broch,

which she played everywhere even as far as Japan, and then in *La Célestine*, an old procurer thought up by Fernando De Rojas.

At the age of 64, wise and serene, Jeanne Moreau has masses of projects. In 1993, she is to play next to Alec Guinness in a British film, *The Veterans*. Then she will take the part of a former dancer who has lost the use of her legs in the war, in a Belgian production. She will also portray Brecht's Mother Courage in a version by Georges Wilson.

Between films, she will be recording famous texts on cassettes, in that peerless voice of hers. She is also preparing a record of songs, for she sings as well and very prettily at that. It is enough to recall the ballad in Jules Et Jim.

Last but not least, in 1993, the star is once more to go behind the camera to direct her second film. It will tell an intimate story of the kind that she is fond of, and it will be called *L'Amitié* (To Friendship) — *L'Actualité En France*.



Jeanne Moreau

Ray Charles not too excited about today's music

By Dean Goodman

LOS ANGELES — After almost half a century of performing a vast range of musical genres from jazz and blues to gospel and country, Ray Charles says he finds it hard to get too excited about the songs on the radio these days.

"Most of the stuff I'm hearing today, so-called popular stuff, what do you call it? Rap? That's a little far out for me," he said in a recent interview.

"I can't learn anything from it. I made records many, many years ago where you just recite or you just

talk. I've already done that." In fact much of the music popular today was done years ago by Charles, whose first hit *I Got A Woman*, in 1958, came 11 years after his first single.

Overcoming blindness, and a drug addiction in his younger days that got him in trouble with the law, Charles is an American legend thanks to classics such as *Georgia On My Mind*, *Hit The Road Jack* and *Unchain My Heart*.

Music fashions may change a hundred times but the chances are that the ancestry of today's music — whether it be rap, funk, or modern rhythm 'n' blues — can be

traced to this 62-year-old "genius" of soul.

"So I don't know man, maybe I'm being super critical," Charles continues. "I wanna hear something where I have to say, 'what was that?' That's what I'm looking for."

And when was the last time that happened, someone asked.

"Oh, it's been a while, it's been a while," he replied.

Luckily for Charles, the scepticism is not reciprocated. Thanks to his starring role in a series of commercials for Pepsi — "you got the right stuff, baby uh-huh" — he is suddenly hip to a whole

new generation.

It's not as if he needed a commercial to lift him out of any obscurity because he still tours regularly — albeit at a slightly slower pace.

Charles has just released his first album in almost three years, *My World* (Warner Bros), and held a rare series of chats with the press in his recording studio in downtown Los Angeles to help promote it.

The album features keyboardist Billy Preston and Late Tote drummer Jeff Porcaro, while Mavis Staples and June Pointer provide backing vocals.

For all his disdain of cur-

rent music, *My World* features several funky dance tunes that wouldn't sound strange blaring from a boom box.

But tell him that the current term for that music is "hip-hop", and you get a puzzled response.

"Hip-hop? I don't know about that. I like to feel that as long as whatever it is doesn't get too far out for me I can handle it, you know? I didn't know that's what you called it, hip-hop."

Charles wrote none of the songs on the album, saying he did not have the time and that he is not a "true songwriter" anyway. Instead he drew

on works from a wide range of singers, from Billie Holiday (If I Could) to Paul Simon (Still Crazy After All These Years). These two are his favourite tunes on the album.

"I like Still Crazy. That is so much me in the sense that it's very much like years ago when I had my small band and it had that old-fashioned feeling that I like," he said.

Three of the songs carry social or political themes. On the upbeat title track, Charles kicks into high gear with the words:

"It's my world...don't you come round messing with my world cos I don't appreciate the fact some people just

can't see it's hurting you and me, it's my world."

None Of Us Are Free, where Eric Clapton chimes in with a guitar solo, and *One Drop Of Love* explore similar themes.

So does that mean Charles is tilting towards political commentary in the twilight of his career, offering a kinder-gentler version of the biting social observations made by rappers such as Ice-T and Public Enemy? Well, not really.

"All I did was select the songs, but the intent was not to come out with some kind of message. It just happened that those songs were songs

that I liked and I decided I wanted to do them. I never even thought about the quote message unquote thing. I really didn't, truly," he said.

Charles is hitting the road again in July and, like any other elder statesman of the music world, has absolutely no plans to retire. Music is his life, although he does make time for some computer chess here or some sports there.

"I come up in the old Duke Ellington vein, the old Count Basie vein where music is my life, that's my breathing, that's my bloodstream. I'm going to do that until God himself says, 'okay, you've had it, time to go'."

Japanese ceramics — a major art

By Victoire Jean

The "Mitsukoshi-Etoile Art Centre" recently opened in Paris with the exhibition Ceramics In Japan, A Major Art: 50 Contemporary Artists.

PARIS — Mitsukoshi, a famous chain of Japanese stores, is continuing its original cultural policy in the area of plastic arts, in the extremely sober and refined setting of one of the classical 19th century private mansions, surrounding the famous Place Charles de Gaulle-Etoile.

This cultural vocation may appear rather special to Westerners, as it is expressed by means of exhibitions organised in Japanese department

stores.

Yet, already in Japan, these exhibitions draw some two million visitors a year who were able, among other things, to admire Dali in 1991, and Rouault this year, presented in Shinjuku, in a new-style museum right in the centre of a commercial establishment.

The success obtained encouraged Mitsukoshi to make the trends of contemporary Japanese art, whose reputation is already well-established,

published, better known in Europe. This new cultural bridge between the east and the west thus enables people to see master-potters whose tradition is one of the oldest in the world.

Pots have been made in Japan since the dawning of time but the art was lost around the 7th and even 8th millennium B.C. The potter's craft is one of the oldest to exist with the civilisations of Mesopotamia and China.

Whether it be an exceptional piece or a simple bowl for everyday use, for every Japanese person pottery has, for generations, been a familiar work of art which holds the place of a major art.

The aesthetics of these shapes, lines and colours goes

back to the Jōmon period which extends from the 6th-7th millennium to the 1st millennium B.C. and was considered as the most creative period with the brown and ocre of the clay and the richness of the decoration.

East and west

The whole creative evolution continued through the Yayoi period (the Bronze Age) when Chinese influence could be seen, but the potter's wheel was still unknown, and extended to the period of the great Kofun tombs (3rd to 7th centuries).

This was the Iron Age and the introduction of Buddhism.

Then came the century of Nara (710-794), the period of Heian followed by the beginning of the Middle Ages and the institution of the tea ceremony and its tea masters. The masters of tea and its rituals were to have a determining influence on the appearance and aesthetic design of rustic pottery.

With time, and the discovery of Kaolin deposits, in the 17th century delicate porcelain was to be invented.

Thus, today, tradition and culture come together in Paris with the presence of 58 contemporary artists and 130 pieces of ceramic including 10 ancient works and 116 contemporary creations.

These artists were selected

following criteria of creativity, a mix of generations, and a diversity of trends which are an extension of the work of a certain neolithic potter whose Jōmon vase is the eternal spirit here.

If spirits are ageless, the one hovering around Place de l'Etoile nevertheless has a European dimension adapted to its time.

The Mitsukoshi Art Centre promises us ten future exhibitions, for 1992-93, devoted to Japanese art and, at the same time, there will be discussions between scientists of different nationalities. The debates will be filmed and shown throughout Japan. The bridge between east and west is growing firmer — *L'Actualité En France*.



One of the items on display at the Japanese ceramic exhibition in Paris

Evidence grows that Vitamins protect against heart disease, stroke

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press
SANTA FE, New Mexico — Women who eat plenty of fruits and vegetables cut their stroke risk by 54 per cent, and men with Vitamin rich diets are 30 per cent less likely to die of heart disease, researchers said.

The studies are the latest in a growing body of statistical evidence that has shown the benefits of the so-called antioxidant vitamins: Vitamin C, Vitamin E and Beta Carotene, a relative of Vitamin A.

The statistical evidence is now strong enough to begin costlier experiments in which men and women are given Vitamin supplements in an

attempt to reduce their heart disease and stroke risks, researchers said at the American Heart Association's annual epidemiology meeting.

"The evidence is really mounting that antioxidants really protect against cardiovascular events" such as heart attacks and strokes, said Dr. Joann Manson of Harvard Medical School, the author of the study on women and strokes.

In her study, based on surveys of 87,245 female nurses across the United States, she found especially strong benefits of spinach and carrots, both potent sources of antioxidants.

Women who ate at least

five servings of carrots per week, for example, had a 60 per cent lower stroke risk than women who ate carrots once a month or less.

She said the research provides new support for the existing recommendation that people eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables per day.

In a separate study, Dilip Pandey and colleagues at the University of Texas in Houston found a 30 per cent reduction in risk of heart disease deaths in men whose diets contained increased amounts of Vitamin C and Beta Carotene.

The study was based on data collected since 1950 on 1,051 male employees of the

Western Electric Co. in Chicago. He found that the amount of Vitamin C in one to two oranges and the amount of Beta Carotene in one to two carrots was enough to have a protective effect.

Dr. Lewis Kuller of the University of Pittsburgh expressed some reservations about the studies, saying they don't completely exclude the effect of other healthy behaviours or other things in the diet.

"People who eat a lot of Carotene live a good, clean life, you might say. They have a lower rate of disease," Dr. Kuller said. Nevertheless, he and Dr. Manson agreed that the time is right

to begin experiments with Vitamin supplements, and Dr. Manson said she has received funding to launch such a study.

Meanwhile, researchers said they couldn't confirm a widely publicised study linking high levels of iron to heart disease.

The original study, published last fall, suggested that levels of iron stored in the body could be a more important risk factor for heart disease than either cholesterol or high blood pressure.

That idea had been suggested in 1981 by Dr. Jerome Sullivan of the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. The American Heart Association published

a Finnish study in September showing a link between high levels of iron and heart attacks. Dr. Sullivan, in a published commentary, claimed his theory had been vindicated.

Two studies reported at the American Heart Association's annual meeting failed to find a similar link. The authors of the Finnish study also presented an update on their work, which still shows a connection.

In one of the new studies, Harvard University scientists compared 238 men who had had heart attacks with a group of 238 controls, selected to be matched in age and in smoking status. They did not find a link between

iron levels and the risk of heart attack, they said.

Dr. Meir J. Stampfer, the director of the study, said it neither proved nor disproved the Finnish research. "But iron levels do not seem to be a major risk factor," he said.

In a separate study, Dr. Alberto Ascherio of the Harvard School of Public Health looked at dietary iron intake in 45,720 men, and again found no evidence that those who consumed more iron were at greater risk of heart attack.

Dr. Sullivan emphasised that the studies did not refute the Finnish finding, and he said there were reasons to think the studies might not have been designed appro-

riately to find the link.

The one point on which most researchers agreed was on the need for more research.

"What we have is an isolated finding from one study which has not been extrapolated to other populations," said Dr. Thomas Pearson of the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital Research Institute in Cooperstown, New York.

The authors of the Finnish study, led by Dr. Jukka T. Salonen of the University of Kuopio, also weighed in with a further study suggesting that exercise tends to reduce iron levels. Perhaps, Dr. Salonen said, exercise lowers heart attack risk because it lowers stored iron levels.

Studies show patients improve with Alzheimer's drug

By Paul Reecer
The Associated Press
ROCKVILLE, Md. — The first drug proposed for Alzheimer's disease has been found to significantly improve patients with the disorder, according to reports given to an advisory panel of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The drug, Tacrine, was tested at 20 hospital centres across the country and FDA investigators said there was "statistically significant" improvement apparent when Alzheimer's patients receiving high doses of the drug

were compared with those who received placebos.

The studies, which lasted from 12 to 30 weeks, plotted the effects of the drug using tests to measure intellectual function.

Both the short — and longer term studies showed a steady decline for patients receiving placebos. For patients on Tacrine, however, there was improvement or a delay in the rate of intellectual decline, FDA experts said.

The best improvement was found among patients who received the highest doses for the 30 week trial.

Tacrine was proposed for licensing two years ago but an advisory committee did not recommend approval.

Since then at least one published study has shown that the drug slows the gradual loss of mental function in some patients.

Warner Lambert Co., a New Jersey pharmaceutical maker, proposes to market Tacrine under the brand name Cognex.

Since drug firms began researching it in 1987, Tacrine has become one of the most widely studied Alzheimer's drugs. It has been given to about 9,000 patients and

been involved in 25 clinical trials.

Tacrine is thought to work by preventing the destruction of a brain chemical called Acetylcholine, found to be in short supply in patients with Alzheimer's. Acetylcholine is a type of neurotransmitter that assists in sending signals from cell to cell within the brain.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, incurable disorder of the brain in which patients experience a slow loss of intellectual function. Patients first have lapses in memory. Later they undergo personality changes, lose con-

trol of bodily functions and finally die. The decline may take more than a decade and cause immense financial and emotional burden for the patient's family.

The disease has struck about 4 million Americans, most over the age of 65. More than 100,000 die annually, making it the fourth leading cause of death among adults.

Positive diagnosis can be made only at autopsy and is defined by formation in the brain of abnormal structures called tangles and plaques.

Though scientists have determined that Alzheimer's

patients have a deficit of Acetylcholine, it is not known if this causes the disease or is a result of other processes in the brain. A substance called Amyloid Beta also builds up in the patient. Research has linked one form of disease to a genetic defect, but the cause of Alzheimer's remains elusive.

Tacrine was the first drug proposed for the direct treatment of a brain chemical disorder linked to Alzheimer's, and the families of many patients have urged that it be approved.

In 1991, the FDA Advisory

Committee sat through almost 14 hours of presentations and discussion about Tacrine before concluding that the proven benefits of the drug were too small to justify its recommendation.

Experts then expressed concern that some studies were not designed properly and that its true effects could not be determined.

A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in November reported that 51 per cent of patients taking Tacrine showed at least some improvement in tests.

More than 25 per cent of

the patients in the study, however, experienced some side effects, including increases in liver enzymes that have to be monitored with weekly blood tests.

One problem with evaluating the effectiveness of Tacrine, or any Alzheimer's drug, is the difficulty of measuring mental ability. Testing scales involve observations by doctors, by family members or care givers, and the measurement of a patient's ability to remember, reason and use language. Some experts have questioned the precision of such tests.

U.S. reviews research labs' collaborations with drug companies

By Mariann Caprino
The Associated Press
NEW YORK — The head of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is launching a review of all marketing agreements between drug companies and research labs

that receive federal funding, officials said.

The move is the latest backlash over the price of drugs. In this case, lawmakers are concerned about how much drug companies charge for medicines that taxpayers helped pay for developing.

NIH Director Dr. Bernadine Healy called for the review but had no further details, said spokeswoman Johanna Schneider from NIH headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland.

The move comes following publicity surrounding an

alliance announced in December between Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Corp. and the Scripps Research Institute of La Jolla, California.

Under their collaboration, Sandoz will provide Scripps with \$300 million over 10 years in exchange for first

rights to Scripps' medical discoveries.

Scripps receives more than 75 per cent — or roughly \$90 million — of its research money from the government.

With 650 Ph.D.s and medical doctors, Scripps claims to be the nation's largest independent, non-profit biomedical research centre.

The Scripps-Sandoz agreement prompted U.S. Rep. Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, to write a letter to Dr. Healy last week complaining that Sandoz would be free to determine the price of any drugs resulting from

the collaboration even though they were derived from government-subsidised research.

"What is most troubling about this deal is the apparent fact that the government has raised no objection to the arrangement," he said, noting that Scripps was not required to seek government approval of the Sandoz relationship.

Government money is an inducement for researchers to develop life-saving drugs. By some estimates, up to half of the most promising

AIDS and cancer drugs are under development in government or university labs.

Sandoz, the U.S. arm of Sandoz Ltd. of Basel, Switzerland, has noted that the money it is investing in Scripps beginning in 1997 will go toward basic research and that there is no guarantee any products would result.

Sandoz, in a statement issued from its headquarters in East Hanover, N.J., said it would be "pleased to work with the federal government to assure that any therapeutic advances... be made available to those who can benefit from

them."

A number of high-profile drugs developed at least partly with government money have carried hefty price tags set by the pharmaceutical companies.

Among them, AZT, the leading AIDS treatment, sells for about \$2,800 a year. That's less than the original \$10,000 annual price first charged by Burroughs Wellcome Plc, which was pressured by AIDS activists to make the drug more affordable to people with the deadly disease.

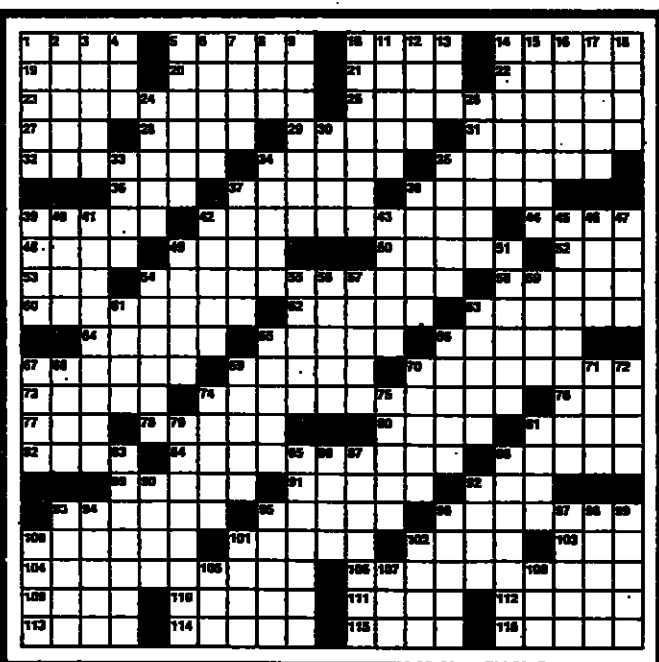
WEEKEND CROSSWORD

MANUAL LABOR

By Al Becker

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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Feeble little twigs of some birds, when hunkered down, sound more like "swallows."
2. Encyclopedia salesman sold set to nice man in Florida.
3. Advice from dietitian for gamely patient: Take seven inches off form or die. Unlucky fellow ate his roof.
4. Human liberty cannot be checked in any document. It lies in one's heart.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. BARRAUMPTT QOKQ QTOWPNOTM YTU
QSQWPEOTM OT SOQ QSQWPN BXTOR
TAHQOTM Y NYHMP MHAUMP TMYOTQK
SOQ QRYNN CFENU. —By Rita Salvato

2. YBYCU EIS EBON YAK AW EAK QAAI
RICKCOG RENG KBKAT LEANS BY WAT
QUILL. —By Ed Haddad

3. ELCKPY MADRELY ZEVLBEZ MVD
ZEBED TEUP HEY SCOOKE ZEP EK JCY
JUCALYD OCU YVTCUS. —By Eugene T. Malacka

4. DIGNZ UGRZ NOT MY DISH: YKKRYTCH
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HOCOUT. —By Frank N. Stein

Diagramless 21 x 21, By James Barrick

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Yeltsin rule

(Continued from page 1)

80 per cent of whom are former Communist Party officials. Mr. Yeltsin, a reformer and former communist leader, has accused the congress of trying to restore hardline communist rule.

The court ruling said Mr. Yeltsin violated eight articles of the constitution and the federative treaty in his appeal to the nation Saturday night.

The Supreme Soviet met briefly Tuesday after the court released its decision. But the Supreme Soviet postponed consideration of the court's finding until Wednesday because of the funeral earlier in the day of Mr. Yeltsin's mother.

In his televised address Saturday, Mr. Yeltsin declared emergency rule, called for a public vote of confidence in his administration, and said the April 25 referendum could lead to a new constitution.

The court ruling, for the most part couched in legal jargon, cited numerous violations of the constitution in Mr. Yeltsin's speech, and said he "altered the constitutional separation of powers between the federal organs of power."

"Introducing a special order of government signifies a violation of the separation of competence and powers between the Russian federation and the regions established by the federation treaty," said the court.

Commenting on the subject of impeachment, Mikhail Moiseyenko, a consultant to Justice Viktor Lukhin, said: "The court's conclusion is merely a basis for the Supreme Soviet to decide whether to convene the Congress of People's Deputies, which alone has the right to impeach the president."

Mr. Yeltsin continued to consolidate his position Tuesday, issuing a decree ordering Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to make sure elected and appointed state executives throughout Russia follow presidential directives.

The president's aides said the mail coming to Kremlin was running one to one in favour of his president's plans to declare emergency rule and hold a referendum.

Mr. Yeltsin, elected in democratic balloting in June 1991, said Saturday that he wanted a new vote of confidence from the people, popular endorsement of the concept of private ownership, and approval of his proposal for a new constitution replacing the congress with a bicameral legislature.

Impeachment sentiment is strong among lawmakers. Mr. Khasbulatov and the congress have opposed introduction of a new constitution, arguing the Communist-era charter is adequate. Reformers contend the old constitution contains many contradictions and does not adequately define the roles of the executive and the legislative branches. Under Soviet rule, all government organs were subservient to the Communist Party.

The court, also dominated by former Communist Party members, has ruled against Mr. Yeltsin in the past, and Chairman Valery Zorkin Saturday characterized the president's speech as an attempted coup.

If Mr. Yeltsin is perceived outside Russia to be taking on dictatorial powers, it would weaken his support in the West.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Monday that the U.S. backing of Mr. Yeltsin was conditioned on further democratic and economic reforms.

Settler kills Palestinian captive

(Continued from page 1)

for throwing stones and blocking roads.

A recent spate of attacks by Palestinians have prompted right-wing legislators to urge Israeli civilians to not hesitate to shoot. But liberal lawmakers have complained this would turn Israel into "the wild west."

Mr. Rabin delivered his comments Tuesday in this context, referring to random Arab stabbing attacks and saying civilians should have overcome the attackers instead of expecting security forces to always be at hand.

"We have to change our concepts... that one stabber should be able to run down an Israeli street and stab eight people. Where is the Israeli public?" Mr. Rabin asked, adding, "I'm not talking about guns."

President Chaim Herzog and Police Minister Moshe Shahal both urged public restraint despite Arab attacks.

Legislator Dedi Zuckerman of the liberal Meretz Party said it appeared Abu Sabab "wasn't killed, he was executed." He asked on Israeli army radio: "Are we fighting against terror while observing the law... or do we want to turn into a gang and adopt the law of the jungle?"

Among other incidents Tuesday: Khaled Nimer Masalmeh, 18, died after being shot during an army raid Monday night in the West Bank village of Beit Awwan. The army said troops fired on masked men, one of whom ignored orders to put down a chain.

The army announced a second lieutenant was jailed for 14 days for taking "improper steps" to disperse protesters, which led to the death of the mentally "retarded" boy Monday in the Gaza Strip. The army said it "apologised" to the family.

In Gaza, two Palestinians were killed by unknown assailants suspected collaborators. The Fatah Hawks took responsibility for one of the killings.

Hawk and dove in elections

An outspoken dove was expected to win Israel's presidency in a parliament vote Wednesday, while polls indicate the opposition Likud Party will choose a new hawkish leader.

Former Defence Minister Ezer Weizman, 68, who in recent years has been a leading advocate of making peace with the Palestinians, has majority support in parliament to become Israel's seventh president.

He was nominated last month by the ruling Labour Party to replace President Chaim Herzog, 74, who is retiring after serving two five-year terms.

The opposition Likud Party is running Dov Shilansky, a former parliament speaker. Results of secret balloting were expected by midday.

The other race on Wednesday has become a popularity contest for the top job in the headline Likud party.

Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, 49, who gained Western attention as Israel's main spokesman during the Gulf war, is the front runner, according to party polls.

He has been a sharp critic of the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process and a vociferous opponent of any move by the Labour government to exchange land in exchange for peace with the Arabs.

Likud polls indicate Mr. Netanyahu will easily win the necessary 40 per cent of the vote on the first ballot, despite his public admission earlier this year of an extramarital affair.

His opponents are David Levy, 54, a Moroccan immigrant and former construction worker who served as foreign minister in the previous government, Benjamin Begin, 43, son of the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin; and Moshe Katsav, 47, who has 11 years of cabinet experience.

The winner will replace Yitzhak Shamir, who announced he would resign after Likud's loss to the Labour Party in last June's national elections.

Mr. Netanyahu's admission of marital infidelity was at the centre of the campaign's mudslinging, since he hinted that he was being blackmailed by an opponent, whom he did not name. Suspicion focused on Mr. Levy, whom Mr. Netanyahu called a "mafia-like figure" in the candidates' televised debate.

Some analysts believe the divisive contest has hurt Likud's chances of unseating Labour in the future. The next general elections are expected in 1996.

Yael Marcus, political analyst for the Hebrew daily Haaretz, wrote that "to great regret... the shape of the campaign heralds trouble for the Likud, no matter who wins."

Mr. Levy, who has strong support from the immigrant community, has hinted he might split from the party or be uncooperative should Mr. Netanyahu be elected.

Mr. Netanyahu was firm in an interview Tuesday with Israel Radio.

"I am not going to ask anyone to leave the party, but I am going to ask everyone to abide by the decision of the majority," he said.

Palestinian-Christian talks set

(Continued from page 1)

He said the Palestinian side would be headed by Faisal Husseini, chief adviser to the delegation (see page 3).

Palestinian sources said an invitation for the informal talks came from Mr. Christopher.

The sources, who insisted on anonymity, said that while the Palestinians agreed to the talks with Mr. Christopher, they have not committed themselves to the ninth round of negotiations.

Israel has said it is ready to resume the negotiations.

The Palestinian delegates told Mr. Christopher during his visit to the region Feb. 10-24 that Israel must repatriate the expelled immediately or at least speed up their return.

The Palestinians also have complained of extensive human rights violations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian delegate Ghassan Khatib said the Palestinians hoped the informal session in Washington would help clear the way for the delegation to participate in the April round.

He said the talks would cover "all matters pertaining to the resumption of the talks."

Dr. Asrawi said the Palestinians would try to revive a six-point agreement they reached with Mr. Christopher during his Middle East tour last month to solve the expellees' crisis and set the 16-month-old talks back on track.

Palestinians said the deal crumbled over Israel's refusal to stop expulsions.

Saudi women break down barriers in medicine

By Sandy Feustel The Associated Press

JEDDAH — When Siddiqah Kamel Pasha addresses a medical conference, she is usually the only woman on the dais.

No one is surprised to find her there, however, even though Saudi Arabia's conservative society often segregates men and women.

Women are barred from many kinds of work, but medicine is emerging as the one field where the sexes work side by side and women can advance according to their abilities.

"There's been a social change in this country," said Fawzia Pasha, Siddiqah's daughter and also a physician. "People used to turn down women doctors. Now they ask for them."

Saad Al Bosary of the King Faisal Specialist Hospital in

Riyadh said it has 39 women doctors and "is similar to other Saudi Arabian institutions in providing equal opportunity for female physicians."

Neither male nor female patients refuse to be treated by women, and women often prefer gynecologists and obstetricians of their own sex, he said.

Siddiqah Pasha, who now specializes in that field, never let being a woman slow her down. As a young general practitioner before the oil boom of the 1960s, she was the only woman doctor at Jeddah's only general hospital.

She came to Saudi Arabia, her ancestral land, from Pakistan and soon became a citizen. Her family originally is from the holy city of Mecca.

Medicine in Saudi Arabia has come a long way since, and so has Dr. Siddiqah. In January, she was

congratulated by the head of the World Fertility Federation, at a conference in Venezuela, for a video presentation on "test tube" babies delivered by the all woman team at her own hospital in Jeddah.

Enrollment in Saudi Arabia's three medical schools is almost evenly split between men and women. The kingdom's 666 women doctors make up 44 per cent of the total, according to health ministry statistics.

The Islamic custom of segregating the sexes has even increased the demand for female doctors. Hospital administrators say many conservative women ask for doctors of the same sex so they will not have to expose themselves to men.

Ten years ago, noting the trend, Dr. Siddiqah Pasha opened her own institution, Siddiqah

Maternity and Children's Hospital, run "by women for women."

Her husband is managing director, but all doctors, technicians and nurses are women.

A sign in the reception area, says: "No entry for males except with permission."

"I noticed that, because of the conservative society here, women really wanted a woman doctor they could confide in," Dr. Siddiqah said. "They're relieved when they see a woman doctor."

Fawzia Pasha, her daughter, received her medical degree in Jeddah and plans to join her mother as an obstetrician and gynecologist at the hospital in a few years.

"Some people from outside say that Saudi women have no freedoms — they're not allowed to drive, and so on, but when it comes to education, we're treated

equally, almost preferred," she said.

Medicine may provide opportunity, but it is "a hard life," Dr. Siddiqah said. When she was getting started, she delivered 5,000 and 6,000 babies in her patients' homes, many in the middle of the night.

Because women are not allowed to drive, she had to depend on the fathers for transportation.

These days, Jeddah has many hospitals, all with the latest technology.

When aspiring women doctors ask Dr. Siddiqah how they can devote the time needed to be a doctor and not neglect their families, she explains: "We're fortunate to have lots of domestic help in this country, and we have the support of our extended families."

Dead Sea scrolls

A challenge to religious beliefs

By Partha S. Banerjee

CHICAGO, U.S. — Was Jesus an Essene? In the 45 years since the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered, historians and Biblical scholars have fiercely debated that question, wondering if Christianity was an offshoot of the ascetic Jewish sect. Now, with the scrolls widely available to researchers for the first time, that and scores of other questions raised by the ancient documents are stirring fresh controversies in academic circles. And even calling into question the very authenticity of the Christian Gospels.

Sacrilege? Dr. Robert E. Eisenman, professor of Middle East religions at California State University near Los Angeles, cannot be bothered with charges of irreverence. "This (the scrolls) is native literature, the authentic 1st century B.C. material, not interpreted, not reworked," he asserted in a recent interview. "I can't speak about the stories in the Gospels... But Christianity as we know it apparently never existed in Palestine of the 1st century A.D. It only developed overseas, in Greece and Rome, after (the Apostle) Paul's representation of them."

Dr. Eisenman emphasises that the Gospels are not necessarily a true reflection of the thinking of Jesus and his disciples. Taking the scrolls as a more faithful portrayal of what he calls the "messianic movement" that produced Jesus, Dr. Eisenman believes "the story (of Christ) was turned into something else in the Greek and Roman circles in the interest, probably, of the Pax Romana (Roman Peace)."

Not all scholars agree with the radical interpretations of Dr. Eisenman and researchers like him. Writes Dr. James H. Charlesworth, professor at the Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey, in the magazine Christian Century: "It appears that some researchers frustrated by decades of being barred from studying the unpublished documents, have rushed forth with conclusions based on rather hasty reconstructions and interpretations of fragmentary and ambiguous data."

It was Dr. Eisenman, in fact, who was instrumental in enfranchising Dead Sea scrolls research, breaking the monopoly of a specially appointed panel of eight international scholars who for three decades had sole access to

unpublished parts representing about 30 per cent of the ancient manuscripts. He said he was helped by "somebody who had access to the photographs of the scrolls" in the Jerusalem repository.

"We did this to free up the debate," said Dr. Eisenman. "Why did we say we don't want to wait anymore for you folks? Because they (the eight scholars) were just a buddy network. They all had the same ideas and no one with a conflicting opinion was allowed in. And they tried to give the impression that the unpublished material is uninteresting and has nothing to do with early Christianity. They were just blowing smoke because the material is fantastically interesting."

That was the opinion of most scholars when the Dead Sea scrolls were first studied in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Here was the true record of those momentous years in history, they exulted. But over the years, the study of the documents restricted to a small group, those early expectations were dampened. The impression that the writers of the scrolls — conjectured as the ascetic Essenes — were the forerunners of Christianity was made out to be sensationalist and unfounded. The scrolls, it was asserted, were far too ambiguous to lead to such definitive conclusions.

The 2000-year-old Hebrew and Aramaic (the language Jesus spoke) writings on decaying rolls of leather were chanced upon in a cave, stored in jars, by two Bedouin shepherd boys in 1947 on the northern shores of the Dead Sea, some 16 kilometres east of Jerusalem. Some of the manuscripts were subsequently acquired by the chief priest of the Syrian Christians in Jerusalem, the Metropolitan Mar Athanasius Yeshue Samuel, while the rest were secretly bought by the chief archaeologist of the Hebrew University, Prof. E.L. Sukenik.

Today, the manuscripts are all housed, as national treasure, in Jerusalem's specially built Shrine of the Book. In addition to the first texts acquired by Prof. Sukenik and the Metropolitan, the shrine is repository of thousands of scroll fragments that were subsequently (early 1950s) discovered in nine other caves in the Qumran region, many of them by the Bedouins.

One of the most significant of

the scroll texts is the so-called Community Rule, or Manual of Discipline. Setting forth statutes concerning organisation and structure of an ascetic commune, the rule includes a penal code, rather severe, ranging from forfeiture of rations to expulsion, admission procedures and other regulations. The commune is described as the faithful "remnant" of Israel preparing for the Kingdom of God. One section of the text that reads like a sermon divides mankind into two opposing groups, the good and the bad, dominated respectively by the Spirit of Light and Spirit of Darkness — a dualistic philosophy probably borrowed from Iranian (Zoroastrian) thoughts.

Scholars studying the Community Rule were intrigued by its close resemblance to a 12th century document, the so-called Zadokite fragments, that was discovered in an old Cairo synagogue in 1896. But even more surprising was how the practices, laws and beliefs of a monastic community called Essenes, as described by 1st century A.D. chroniclers Josephus, Philo and Piny the Elder, appeared to agree with the tenets of the Community Rule. Piny, who described the Essenes as "solitary people, and extraordinary beyond all others in the whole world who live without women... and also without money," even located their most important settlement in much the same place where the scrolls were found.

The obvious conclusion: the people of the scrolls were in fact the Essenes. Today, while the prevalent theory still identifies them with Essenes, some historians, notably Dr. Eisenman and Dr. Michael Wise, assistant professor of Near Eastern languages and civilisations at the University of Chicago, tend to disagree. "There are too many things in the scrolls that do not accord with the Essene ideas," says Dr. Wise. "For example: all the three classical writers emphasise that the Essenes were celibate. Now, isn't it odd that not one of the thousand pieces of their literature (the scrolls) even mention celibacy, which was such a central tenet of the community?"

The Essene hypothesis is just too simplistic," agrees Dr. Eisenman. "The Essenes were peaceful, retiring, monastic, the quietest people in the wilderness. Uninterested in the political, re-

volutionary struggles. Well, that's not the Dead Sea scrolls. The Dead Sea scrolls are militant, aggressive, political, committed, apocalyptic, war-oriented, nationalist."

The militancy Dr. Eisenman talks about is best embodied in a document named "The War of the Children of Light against the Children of Darkness." The document is largely a manual for the commune's final war against the forces of evil, who include foreign aggressors styled Kittims, possibly Romans and Seleucids (Syrian-Greeks).

Another commentary exalts a "Teacher of Righteousness" and denounces his antagonist, the "Wicked Priest." During the early years of scrolls research, some scholars, notably Andre Dupont-Sommer of France, initially identified Jesus with the Teacher of Righteousness. Experts discount that identification today but agree the Teacher was one of the first leaders of the community. According to the Zadokite fragments found in Cairo, the community subsequently split with the Wicked Priest leading the breakdown faction. Some scholars believe the Wicked Priest was the Jewish rebel Jonathan Maccabaeus, who with his brothers revolted against the Seleucid ruler of the Holy Land around 160 B.C. but later sided with another Seleucid, a pretender to the throne, who made him the high priest.

"The problem with such identifications," explained Dr. Wise, "is that the scrolls speak in very ambiguous terms and ancient Hebrew is such an imprecise language." Add to this the frustration of reading texts that come in countless tiny fragments, some containing just a letter or two. This is particularly true of the later finds, especially the abundance of material from Cave IV, much of which was in a state of advanced decay. It has been the task of the eight international scholars to make sense out of these tens of thousands of fragments. After carefully cleaning and flattening the fragments, their research teams photographed them with infrared light, and sometimes ultraviolet, to expose writing on blackened parchment no longer visible. The words were then identified and pieced together, so lines and eventually texts could be reconstructed. The process takes months, even years, wrote Frank

Moore Cross Jr., one of the eight scholars. "It is the ultimate in jigsaw puzzles."

"Matching the fragments," explained Dr. Wise, "is done on the basis of several factors. First of all, handwriting. Then the colour of the leather parchment. After that, you try to fill out the gaps by guessing missing words by referring to works like the Old Testament... It is the most intellectually draining thing I have ever done... And sometimes there is no clue at all. No biblical quotations or anything to help put out all the words. Like in the Dying Messiah text." That text, one of the first scrolls published after the monopoly of the international scholars was broken last autumn, figures prominently in the theories advanced by Eisenman and Wise that the Dead Sea documents do after all have a significant bearing on Christianity. The text has a line that could be translated as "They will put to death the Prince of the Congregation" or "The Prince of the Congregation will kill him." Dr. Eisenman and Dr. Wise, setting the line in context, argue that if the first translation is correct, the people of the scrolls can be presumed to have believed in the idea of a leader (Messiah) who would suffer and die — a wholly Christian concept.

There is considerable dispute, though, over which of the two translations can be accepted. At a recent seminar of 20 English Biblical scholars organised at Oxford University by the noted scrolls expert Geza Vermes, it was the second translation that found favour, leading to the interpretation that the leader was not slain but himself slew.

According to Dr. Wise and Dr. Eisenman, more significant evidence linking the scrolls to Christianity comes from another text named "Messianic Vision" by Dr. Eisenman. For in this text is mentioned one of the central concepts of Christianity, the idea of resurrection. In Dr. Eisenman's translation, the relevant line reads: "The Heavens and the Earth shall obey (God's) Messiah," and "He shall heal the wounded, resurrect the dead, preach glad tidings to the poor." In addition, says Dr. Wise, words and sentiments in at least two other newly studied scrolls are in close agreement with portions of the New Testament.

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Bogues does not let (lack of) height hinder him

CHARLOTTE (AP) — The cynics may still laugh at Muggsy Bogues, but they should know better after five years.

Instead of lingering as a 12th man with very little playing time because he's 5-foot-3 (160 centimetres), Bogues is starting for the Charlotte Hornets after a frustrating rookie year with the Washington Bullets. He has maintained a place among the statistical leaders in the NBA, and Bogues also is proving that he has a place in the game dominated by bigger men.

"That's the ultimate, knowing that you can be among the top guards in the league and you're starting and you're being respected as a starter," Bogues says. "It's something that I've always believed, that I am a starter."

The former Wake Forest star is working on leading the Hornets into the playoffs in their fifth year. It's a lofty goal for a player whose hoop heroes as a youngster were not in the pros.

"When I was growing up, I didn't watch the NBA that much," Bogues says. "I watched college some. I was mainly involved in my own sports, guys around the neighbourhood. I had neighbourhood heroes. I didn't have NBA heroes because I couldn't really relate to them."

The National Basketball Association did have small guards then, but by Bogues' standards Nate "Tiny" Archibald was a monster of a guard at 6-foot-1 (185 centimetres). There was Calvin Murphy and Charlie Crist, also of the era where being a point guard didn't necessarily require the build of a frontcourt player.

With his neighbours telling him to forget pro ball, Bogues put his athletic life in perspective and made college his next challenge. He took the wisdom he gained from Woods to Winston-Salem, where he became an all-Atlantic coast conference performer and less of a novelty.

He played in 79 games and handed out 404 assists while scoring a modest 5 points per game. But Bogues watched the coaching staff change the offense around him to a more deliberate style. It took him away from his type of game and caused Bogues to wonder if the coaches would stick with him.

It was nice to be near his home of Baltimore, Bogues said, but the situation was "uncomfortable."

"I was unhappy. I wasn't playing like I thought I should have been playing," he says.

Bogues feels he didn't get the shot he deserved.

"They just gave up on me too quick," he says. "For them to give up on a number one pick that early, it was kind of unusual."

When time came for Charlotte to pick from the expansion pool, the team took a chance on Bogues. Still, in his first year with his new team, he had to prove he belonged.

"I had another coach who didn't believe in me, but I was doing so many positive things on the floor that there was no way he could stop playing me," he says. "I was that important to the team that he had to play me."

Dick Harter was the coach. After a season and a half he was gone. Bogues went from a bit player to a key performer, raising his assists from 320 to 867 from his first year in Charlotte to his second, which was under general manager.

Last season Bogues was fourth in the NBA in assists and eighth in steals. He put on his best



San Antonio center David Robinson has no problem keeping the ball out of reach of Charlotte guard Muggsy Bogues.

San Antonio center David Robinson has no problem keeping the ball out of reach of Charlotte guard Muggsy Bogues.

challenger Nigel Short announced bids worth up to \$6.1 million to stage a breakaway final but did not set a venue. The grandmasters, who have parted with the game's ruling body in a row over their world title play-off, said they would take up to two weeks to decide where it would take place. They announced five bids ranging from 10 million German marks (\$6.1 million) to 1.2 million pounds (\$1.8 million).

ITF to give \$50,000 to Ashe Foundation

LONDON (AP) — The International Tennis Federation announced it will donate \$50,000 to the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the defeat of AIDS. The federation's committee of management also agreed on a posthumous ITF award for services to the game to Ashe, the former U.S. Open, Australian Open and Wimbledon titlist, who died of AIDS in February. The ITF said the award was for Ashe's "contribution to player development and humanitarian projects and in recognition of his achievements as both a Davis Cup player and successful team captain."

Sao Paulo, Palmeiras lose to minor teams

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Palmeiras and World Club Champions Sao Paulo both suffered humiliating defeats against minor teams in the Sao Paulo Soccer Championship at the weekend. Sao Paulo were beaten 2-0 at home by XV de Piracicaba, who finished the game with 10 men, while Palmeiras threw away a lead as they lost 2-1 against bottom club Juventus. Palmeiras still lead Group A of the competition, one point ahead of Corinthians who thrashed Santos 5-2 in front of a 52,000 crowd. The top six teams in Group A, which includes all the big clubs, and the top two in Group B qualify for the second stage. Fluminense and Vasco da Gama faced muddy changing rooms before their Rio de Janeiro championship match after heavy rain flooded part of the Maracana Stadium.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Italy deprived of Baggio against Maltese

ROME (R) — Italy will be deprived of gifted Juventus playmaker Roberto Baggio on Wednesday when they seek a victory over Malta which would lift them to the top of their World Cup qualifying group. Baggio, scorer of 16 goals in just 27 internationals, badly bruised his side as his club defeated Benfica in a UEFA Cup tie last week and has been ruled out.

Van Basten return put off again

MILAN (R) — AC Milan striker Marco van Basten will miss his club's key European Cup semifinal group match with Sweden's IFK Gothenburg next month after failing to recover from injury as quickly as hoped. The Dutchman, current European Footballer of the Year, has not played since an ankle operation last December but was expected to be fit for the April 7 tie. However, his return, originally scheduled for early March, is being delayed once more.

Russian boxer Artemiev in coma

ATLANTIC CITY (R) — Boxer Sergei Artemiev remained in a coma in the intensive care unit of Atlantic City Medical Center following his loss to Carl Griffith Sunday, promoters of the card said. The 24-year-old Russian was removed from the ring on a stretcher after his United States Boxing Association lightweight title bout was stopped at 2:21 of the 10th round. The fight was scheduled for 12 rounds. Bob Arum, president of top Rank Promotions, said in a statement: "We're all praying for this tremendous prizefighter."

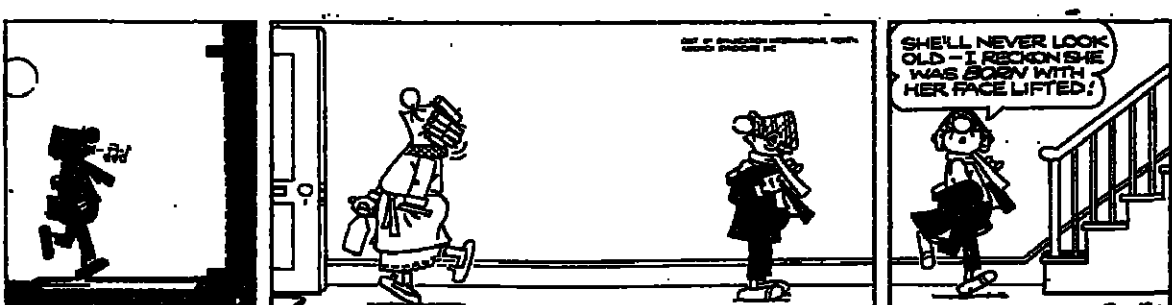
Kasparov, Short announce bids for final

LONDON (R) — World chess champion Garry Kasparov and

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Women's national basketball team begins training Monday

AMMAN — The Kingdom's women's national basketball team begins training Monday, March 29, after a long absence from the basketball scene.

Players representing Al Ahli, Al Jazireh and Homenetmen clubs met at the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) this week to agree upon a training schedule and a possible participation in the Saddam International Championship in Baghdad, April 28-May 4. Players representing Al Orhodozi were absent from the scheduled meeting.

The women's national basketball team was last regrouped in 1993.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MARCH 25, 1993

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't allow a partner or close business associate upset your equilibrium as Venus squares Mars but take the time to sit down and quietly ponder a way to make everything more satisfactory.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is your day to turn around some of your present methods of getting routines done so they are more effective in the future for you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You now find that revision of some recreational or entertainment plans can make them more agreeable to you so don't be hesitant about doing so.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't be affected by some condition at home that can be a pain in the neck for you can handle it during the day and tonight be off to fun pleasures.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have some plan you had hoped would work but does not fit your situation so accept a new way and let it work in your best interest.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) In any discussions about funds you may be mistaken in the standpoint you take so carefully check and make sure you have correct facts and figures.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September

22) Nothing early seems to work out as you expected so go along with whatever arises impersonally and you can handle all very well until good events come along.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You thought you were through with an annoying condition but there are still unfinished tasks to do about it, tonight you get pretty much what you want.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You thought you knew just where you stood with a private person but it does not look that way so don't push but let things work themselves out.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is the day to use much care in your association with highly placed persons but in the evening good friends make up for any day time tension.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is the time when you want to decide how best to get along with others in the future but strange conditions happen to dampen such ardor.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You seem to have more bills or other practical matters that you can attend to but take them one by one and tonight new interests intrigue you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Now you find an associate upon whom you can usually rely upon being difficult so remember that persons good points, tonight be happy with your mate.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MARCH 26, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Benefits can be yours today as the Moon in Taurus sextiles Mercury and Mars and Trines Neptune. You will most likely be participating in some unexpected events that require a whole new approach.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look for those persons today that you regard as partners and associates and make a point to come to a new and better agreement with them.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can delight and please a fellow associate with suggestions on how to improve the tasks you are doing together as well as render some special favour.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think about what you can do to make your attachment realise the extent and depth of your affections and you cement a bond tighter between you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A good day to bedeck your residence in more art, music or culture for it would make it a happy, more pleasant place for all of your family.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Seek out those with whom you have usual daily association and let them know you enjoy their society and you would like to spend even more time with them.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September

22) Your interest in improving your property or possessions is a good one now so don't put off but get busy and make them more attractive and valuable.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is the day for you to do the things that you like most for your charm is high, your judgment good, and others are willing to go along with you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have an innate love for mysteries and investigating what others do not understand and this is an excellent time for uncovering the truth.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can reach out to the friends and acquaintances who have the same sense of humor of fun as yourself and you can have a really wonderful time.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) The good opinion of the public and those in the position of influence and prominence is important to you and by your own acts you can gain it today.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have so many good new ideas that you hardly know where to start putting them so early decide what you want, who can help you go after your aims.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Look for some special happiness with your mate or fiancé today for most everyone is feeling cooperative and affectionate for personal enjoyment.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK93 ♣AQ76 ♣AQ1072 ♠Void
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
A.—A very good indeed, but if you elected to jump to two diamonds you have accomplished more than rob yourself of valuable bidding room you will need later. Take it easy until a trump fit has been located. Respond one diamond.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J3 ♣AKQ83 ♠94 ♠AQ107
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
? What do you bid now?
A.—Partner's bid of the fourth suit promises another bid, so there's no reason to do anything rash, despite a pretty good hand. We would simply rebid two hearts and wait to see where partner is going.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K984 ♣AJ63 ♠943 ♠63
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
? What action do you take?
A.—Whether partner's bid was a genuine suit or a request for help in spades, you have ample values to insist on game—but in which suit? Let partner make the choice by raising to three spades.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South

you hold:
♠5 ♣AQJ62 ♠AQ6 ♠KQ63
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ 1 ♠ Pass Pass
? What action do you take?
A.—The problem with bidding some number of clubs is that it is too unilateral—it rules out punishing one spade as well as a diamond contract. The correct call is double. Since partner has not yet bid, that is still for takeout, although North is free to convert to penalties with the right hand.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A10 ♣92 ♠AKJ1085 ♠K107
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ 1 ♣ 1 NT Pass
? What do you bid now?
A.—This is not the time to count points. Your hand should produce from six to eight tricks for partner, and it will be easier for him to come to nine tricks opposite this holding than with some random 18-19 points. Bid three no trump.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ10 ♣875 ♠82 ♠AQJ97
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
? What do you bid now?
A.—You want to play in game, but don't know whether it should be in spades or no trump. Rebid three spades, and leave the decision to partner.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 24, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Three Moon squares to Mars, Neptune and Uranus and Moon Void of Course late in the evening make for a difficult sort of day but you should be able to lick any problems that arise with caution and tact.

exact condition you desire them to be as you are stickler for perfection.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is your day to tackle and to get rid of those private and intimate tasks you have to do but have not had the time to get them in back of you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think about what persons have been good to you and go out of your way to do something that will especially please them and they will respect to you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Now is the day to make sure that whatever you do in the world of outside acting should be in a diplomatic, careful and tactful manner.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) That new plan that appeals to you so much is very good but for you to take full advantage of potential benefits you need to study all facets more deeply.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your intuitions are not up to par today and do not rely upon them but use accepted and proven methods in any business matters that be done.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Try to carry through with promises you have made in any agreements with outside associates and show every detail of such as important to you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't let an older person from a distance come and take up your time so that you do not get into those various tasks that you have agreed to do.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) The expense connected with some pleasure can keep you from enjoying it but spend time finding and improving your appearance and vitality.

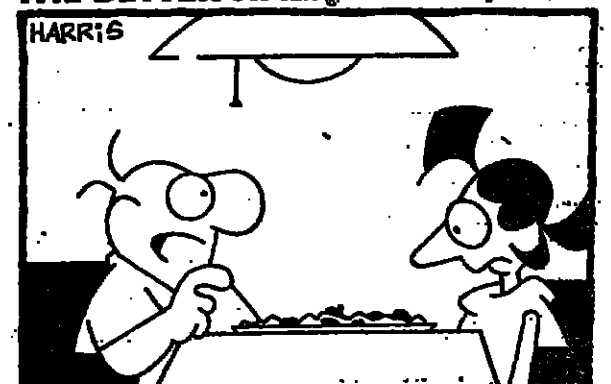
GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have many things to do for your home and family so pitch in and do them and don't allow a depressive outside associate to interfere.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have some shopping errands and calls to make and if you spend all your time on usual routines you will not be able to really handle them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You need to start this day right by finding out just where you stand financially and what you can do to solve your practical problems that do come up.

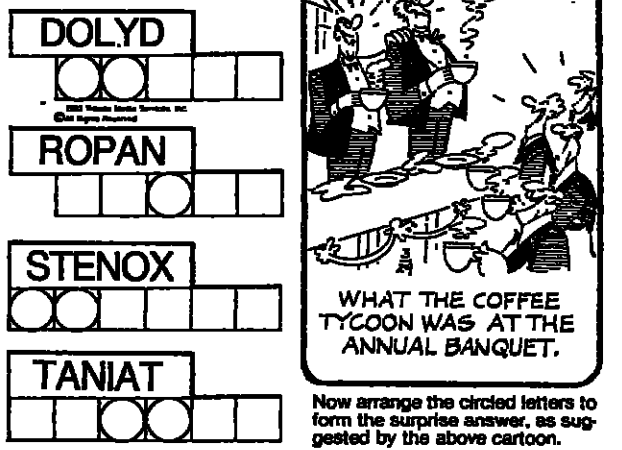
VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider what you need to do to have conditions about you to the

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



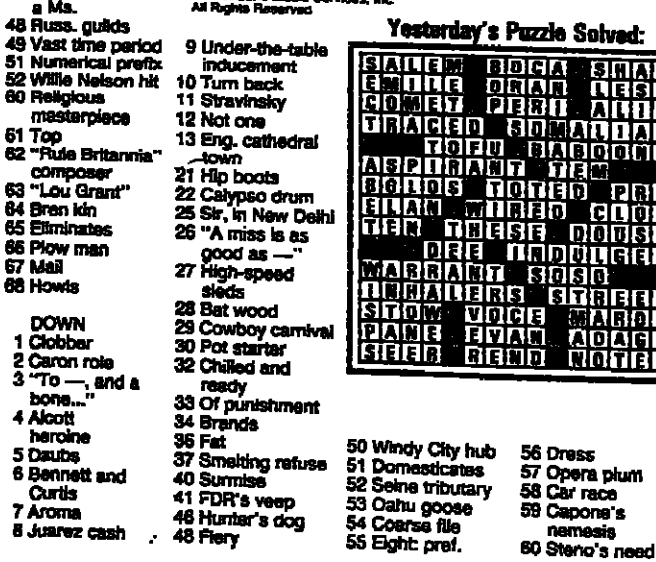
JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four original words.



Print answer here: " " " " (Answers tomorrow)
Jumbles: MONEY LOFTY SHOULD MEADOW
Answer: What Swiss cheese certainly is—
"HOLE-SOME"

THE Daily Crossword by Gerald R. Ferguson



Romania plans cash handouts to offset price shock

BUCHAREST (R) — The Romanian government plans to offer cash handouts to offset price hikes sparked by market reforms, government officials said Tuesday.

The government is considering ways to cushion the impact of moves to scrap price subsidies starting May 1, an official with the government's press office told Reuters.

Starting May, Romanians will get cash handouts and a new indexation of wages, to partly cover price rises triggered by market reforms, the official said.

The monthly rise in Romanian consumer prices slowed to 8.2 per cent in February, from 11.5 per cent the previous month.

But more price hikes are expected in May, as the government lifts the last subsidies on staple foods and key services, to complete a price liberalisation drive launched in October 1990.

Annual inflation was around 200 per cent in 1992. In February, unemployment breached the psychologically sensitive one million threshold, and the jobless rate rose to 9.4 per cent by mid-March, according to labour ministry data.

Earlier this month, the government increased average monthly wages by 9.1 per cent in the first quarter of 1993, when prices are expected to rise by 18.2 per cent.

The government would make a final announcement on the size of cash handouts and would set a new level of wage indexation for the second quarter of 1993, after talks with big trade unions, government sources said.

There were no advance figures for the amount of the envisaged handouts.

Fujimori predicts 10,000 businessmen could settle in Peru

LIMA (R) — Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, whose government is strongly promoting foreign investment, predicts up to 10,000 foreign businessmen could obtain citizenship here after the elimination of a two-year residency requirement.

"This is not a migration policy, but an investment policy," Mr. Fujimori said in a television interview late Sunday.

He said each migrant would be required to pay \$25,000 and make a commitment to invest in the country.

"We calculate that with 10,000 immigrants that could mean \$250 million to create new jobs," Mr. Fujimori said, adding that the funds would be channelled through a social investment fund.

On Friday, the constituent congress dominated by his Nueva Mayoría-Cambio 90 Party modified the 1979 constitution to permit a dispensation of the two-year residency requirement "according to law."

Simultaneously, a law facilitating the entry to Peru of foreigners who intend to invest in Peru was presented by the official party.

Victor Joy Way, a former industry minister who is now an official congressman, said at least 3,000 foreigners — mostly from South East Asia — had applied for Peruvian citizenship.

Political observers said the measure was tailor-made for Hong Kong businessmen who want to leave when it returns to mainland China in the year 2,000.

Dollar plummets to historic low in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — The dollar fell to a record low of 115.20 yen in Tokyo Tuesday just before closing back to finish at a historic Tokyo closing low of 115.33 yen.

Currently dealers said selling by foreign operators battered the dollar and predicted further falls.

"The dollar could fall further in overseas markets given this mood," said a foreign bank dealer in Tokyo.

Speculation Japan might bow to pressure from Washington and other trading partners to boost the yen as a way to trim its huge trade surplus continued to bolster the Japanese currency.

Market players also appeared keen to test the nerve of the Bank of Japan (BOJ), which many expect to intervene to halt the yen's latest surge.

"Intervention fears make it difficult to sell the dollar, but we want to see when the bank (BOJ) will step in," said Yuko Fukukawa, assistant manager at Tokai Bank.

The dollar also eased against the German mark, falling to 1.6560 marks at the 0830 GMT Tokyo close.

It closed in New York Monday at 1.6375 marks and 115.62 yen after plunging to then-record lows against the yen on a Tokyo stock market rally, political turmoil in Russia and technical factors that bolstered the Japanese currency.

The dollar's relentless plunge appeared to confound Japanese policy-makers Tuesday.

Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said it was difficult to

see what factors accounted for the dollar's latest drop since the U.S. currency should have strengthened at a time of global uncertainty such as that sparked by political turmoil in Russia.

Asked what was causing the dollar's plunge, Mr. Hayashi told reporters, "I don't get it. The dollar has been a safe-haven currency but it seems the market does not think so."

Some economists said investors' moves away from European currencies because of worries about Russia probably helped to boost the yen and so indirectly weaken the dollar.

But some said other factors such as expectations Tokyo will soon craft a big fiscal package to kickstart its stalled economy were also probably behind the yen's

rise.

"I'd be a little sceptical of the yen as a safe-haven," one said. Worries about the yen's rise as well as about Russia, where President Boris Yeltsin is struggling to stay in power, weakened Tokyo share prices which anyway were ready for a breather.

The 293 share Nikkei average closed down 292.77 points, or 1.56 per cent, at 18,491.62. The decline still leaves the market 1,671.01 points above its level at the end of February.

"Today's fall was natural given the recent surge," said one foreign broker. "Investors withdrew from the market today, eyeing Russia, but more small lot and foreign buying is expected ahead of the fiscal year end (on March 31)."

Schlesinger says German unity troubles underestimated

FRANKFURT (R) — Bundesbank President Helmut Schlesinger has said the difficulties of German unity had been underestimated and had made monetary policy difficult.

He also said the German central bank lowered its discount rate by half a percentage point to 7.5 per cent Thursday because M3 money supply growth has slowed, wage increases have been moderate and the outlook for inflation has improved.

But the inflation rate has been and is still too high, he added. "I hardly need to underline the fact that the difficulties of the unification process were underestimated," he said.

Mr. Schlesinger referred to monetary union between the two parts of divided Germany in 1990 and pointed in particular to efforts to quickly bring east German wages up to west German levels.

"We are still suffering from a number of the mistakes even today," he said.

"The comparatively favourable starting conditions, supported by an unrealistic conversion relationship, caused the difficulties of the task to be underestimated," he added.

Mr. Schlesinger's predecessor at the Bundesbank, Karl Otto Poehl, resigned in 1991 shortly after saying the terms of German monetary union had been disastrous.

"The result is disaster as you can see," Mr. Poehl had said, drawing a sharp rebuke from German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Many economists have said the relatively high inflation rate in Germany in the last two years is the direct result of the Bonn government's decision in 1990 to let east Germans convert their ostmarks into west German marks at an unrealistically favourable exchange rate.

East German marks were converted at an average rate of one west German for 1.3 east German marks — roughly five times the

free market value at the time.

"A lot of major mistakes were made," said Gerhard Grebe, chief economist at Bank Julius Baer. "Poehl was right — the exchange rate and the wage policies for east Germany were wrong. People have taken a more sober assessment since then."

West Germany's inflation rate averaged 3.5 per cent in 1991 and four per cent in 1992 — far above the Bundesbank's two per cent target. High German interest rates forced other countries to keep rates high, exacerbating Europe's recession and triggering unprecedented turmoil in its exchange rate system.

Mr. Schlesinger called unification the "greatest task facing Germany's financial policy since the federal republic was founded."

Despite the economic slowdown in Germany, there was still sufficient liquidity in the economy, he said, with lending rising eight per cent.

Kenya cancels key reforms

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya reversed key economic liberalisation measures Monday in a major row with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank over economic policy.

The central bank reintroduced several foreign currency controls lifted only last month, ranging from regulations on imports to the purchase of air tickets.

President Daniel Arab Moi simultaneously blasted as "unrealistic" conditions demanded by the IMF and the World Bank for a restoration of crucial balance of payments aid and said his government would restore an "appropriate and feasible" economic framework.

"As a sovereign state, Kenya will no longer accept any form of economic arm-twisting from any quarter," he said.

Lashing out at the IMF, Finance Minister Musalia Mudavadi said the reforms it prescribed would have caused the collapse of large number of companies plugged Kenya into massive recession with mass unemployment.

Reversing previous reforms, an official statement by the central bank outlawed "retention accounts" which enabled exporters

to keep hard currency instead of remitting it to bank said receipts from tea and coffee exports must also be handed over to the "central" authorities.

The move effectively ended a thriving inter-bank market on which the Kenyan shilling has plummeted by up to 60 per cent against major currencies since the liberalisation was adopted.

Businessmen holding hard currency in retention accounts were given 48 hours to hand it over to the central bank at an official rate some 23 per cent lower than the rate offered by commercial banks Monday.

"This was a panic measure caused by a foreign currency crisis," a Western banker said.

He said the liberalisation measures were hastily adopted in an attempt to curry favour before a visit by an IMF review year last month.

The team left without endorsing the government's economic programme and expressed concern over corruption, the bank of Kenya's commercial community.

"Liberalisation was a ploy to win back foreign aid, when it failed they were left only with capital flight," said another commercial banker.

The short-lived liberalisation sparked a surge in domestic prices and sent inflation soaring. President Moi said the IMF was insisting on high interest rates to mop up excess liquidity in the economy.

The 68-year-old president said Kenya, once the region's economic engine, would adopt an economic system over which it had control and would guarantee that basic commodities and services were affordable.

The IMF, World Bank and other Western donors suspended aid worth nearly \$40 million a month in November 1991 to press President Moi to make radical political and economic reforms.

Mr. Mudavadi said in a statement that Kenya had demonstrated willingness to implement radical reforms, but the IMF and World Bank had failed to reciprocate by providing necessary resources to make them successful.

"Accordingly, the government has no option but to adopt measures which it considers appropriate to maintain economic and social stability," he said, adding that Kenya would enter fresh negotiations with friendly countries.

Morocco faces serious jobless problem in 90s

RABAT (R) — A slowing economy and a growing population mean Morocco's soaring unemployment will worsen over the coming decade.

The problem threatens relations with Europe as illegal immigrants cross the Straits of Gibraltar, many risking their lives.

Unemployment has climbed from 8.8 per cent of the workforce in 1971 to 20.8 per cent in 1990-91, representing 1.1 million people, 800,000 of them in urban areas.

High school graduate Mohammed Wardi, 25, who has a car mechanic's diploma, has been looking for a job since 1988.

"I applied for a 2,000 job in Cayenne (French Guiana) through a firm in Gibraltar... frankly I don't know where it is on the map, but the important thing is to get out of this hellish situation," he said.

But after he paid a fee for the job, officials told him the company did not exist. The local press has reported several cases of emigration rackets to Canada, the U.S. and Asia by people out to exploit the distress of the unemployed.

The situation is exacerbated by signs of slowing economic growth. According to the most optimistic official forecasts, more than 5.8 million job-seekers are expected in urban areas by the year 2000, but openings will not exceed 4.9 million.

Some 1.8 million Moroccans live and work abroad, mostly in Europe. But the EC has tried to stem the flow of instituting strict visa requirements.

Moroccan and Spanish papers have reported the drowning of many African "boat people" trying to cross the Straits of Gibraltar in frail craft to seek work in Europe, where EC officials say there are already 17 million jobless.

Spain has up to 250,000 illegal

immigrants already, more than a fifth of them Moroccans, according to Spanish sources. They usually cross from Tangier and other northern ports.

King Hassan set up the National Council for Youth and the Future (CNJA), in December 1991 to crush out a job-creation strategy for unemployed graduates.

The king promised in July 1991 to provide jobs for 100,000 unemployed graduates, but with the slowdown of the economy in 1992, the results were way off target.

Only 45 per cent of the 100,000 jobs planned for 1993 were fulfilled, said an expert of the Casablanca economic think-tank Centre Marocain de Conjoncture.

The CNJA says the workforce rose from four million in 1971 to nearly 10 million in 1990-91, an average annual growth of 3.6 per cent, higher than the 2.6 per cent population growth rate among Morocco's 26 million people.

The figures include workers in what is called the "informal market" or black economy.

Biology graduate Amine, 29, said he had staged protest sit-in with colleagues. "But all we get from the CNJA and officials are sweet and optimistic speeches while the number of jobless is snowballing."

The 1980s were marked by several years of drought and a major acceleration of the rural exodus to the towns, increasing the job problem further.

V.W. slashes dividend as '92 profits tumble

BONN (R) — Volkswagen A.G. (V.W.), Europe's largest car maker, has said it would slash its 1992 dividend on ordinary shares to two marks from 11 after reporting its group net profit had tumbled 87 per cent compared with 1991.

A company statement issued after a much-anticipated supervisory board meeting also said Ignazio Lopez de Arriortua, former purchasing chief of General Motors Corp. (G.M.) of the United States, would join V.W.'s management board with immediate effect and head a new production and purchasing division.

V.W.'s group net profit in 1992 tumbled to 1.7 billion marks (\$88.5 million) from 1.1 billion marks (\$66.7 million) the year before and the profit of the parent company — which mainly reflects domestic operations — fell to 132 million marks (\$79.5 million) from 447 million marks (\$269.5 million) a year earlier.

Strong sales in the first half of 1992 helped V.W. boost group sales for the full year to \$5.4 billion marks (\$51.4 billion) from 76.3 billion marks (\$46 billion).

But V.W. warned in December that 1992 profits were under pressure from falling sales in the second half, the high value of the mark and provisions for reducing its workforce.

Lower profit would impact the dividend, V.W. had said.

Rabat is seeking a closer relationship with Europe to support its economy. The EC has proposed a free trade zone.

King Hassan appealed to the EC in December for \$729 million to help finance a major programme in north Morocco to tackle both cultivation of hashish and illegal emigration.

"The plan is to build new infrastructure and provide jobs for thousands in the backward Rif mountain area.

The Association of Unemployed Graduates which often stages demonstrations and sits to attract the attention of the authorities, says it represents 800,000 graduates who have been out of work for up to 10 years.

Economists stress the need for rapid economic expansion to absorb the workforce but growth is showing signs of slowing.

"Development growth of 10 per cent per year for at least seven to 10 years is a must, in order to eliminate the long queue of future job applications," said Mohammed Chiguer, a member of the Moroccan Association of Economists.

The latest central bank report said GDP growth was 11.9 per cent in 1991 and 8.3 per cent in 1990. The official estimate for 1991 was 4.6 per cent.

Finance Minister Mohammed Berrada predicted five per cent growth for 1993 when he presented the budget in December but officials say this will be revised down to two per cent because of drought.

S. Africa's Keys ponders renewed ties with IMF

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Finance Minister Derek Keys has said he hoped the proposed formation of transitional multi-party administration in South Africa in June would pave the way for renewed access to the IMF and World Bank.

He told Reuters in an interview he also hoped the expected resumption of democracy talks and measures to put the economy back on a sound footing would support a return to world capital markets soon, after new issues were frozen several months ago.

Renewed access to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank were important to the success of the change to a post-apartheid society, he said.

"It's been a long period of isolation, and now semi-isolation, and if we want to give this thing a decent start we need to be totally back in the mainstream — the sooner the better," he said.

Asked how soon he felt this was possible, he referred to President P.W. de Klerk's timetable for transition which includes formation of multi-party transitional executive councils in June to level the political playing field before elections.

"Ideally... I would hope it would be then," he said.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) last month eased conditions for lifting remaining anti-apartheid sanctions, saying financial and investment embargoes could go when an election date was set and the transitional councils started

work.

Mr. Keys noted World Bank representatives have been openly preparing for renewed involvement in South Africa.

This work, including economic analyses and informal contacts with various political groups in South Africa, has been under way for three years, development officials say.

South Africa, its image abroad improved by Mr. de Klerk's reforms to dismantle apartheid, made a triumphant return to international capital markets in September 1991 after a six-year absence.

The finance department, in a review released with the national budget, noted however that political uncertainty and unrest since mid-1992 had tarnished foreign perceptions of South Africa's political and economic prospects.

"Since this put a further premium on South African paper, all further planned loan issues by the public sector were postponed on account of cost considerations," it said.

The budget, which undertimed Mr. Keys's commitment to financial discipline following years of laxity and perceived mismanagement under his predecessors, followed proposals last week for a five-year programme for far reaching economic reforms.

These have been widely commended as steps which, along with the resumption of democracy talks, were likely to improve perceptions among foreign creditors and investors.

TODAY AT

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel.: 634144
Sylvester Stallone — In
STOP! OR MY MOM WILL SHOOT
Shows: 11:00, 1:00, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **Nabil Al Mashini Theatre** Tel.: 675571
Presents as of March 17, 1993
the political comedy play
Definitely Democracy (Demokratiyya Wa Nuss)
Zawwad Wild Awwad Party

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel.: 677420
Macaulay Culkin
HOME ALONE 2
"LOST IN NEW YORK"
Shows: 11:00, 1:00, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel.: 699238
Ahmed Zaki — In
Mr. Karate (Arabic)
Shows: 3:00, 4:45, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30
★ **HOME ALONE "2"**
Shows: 11, 1, 3 only

Cinema **AHLAN THEATRE** Tel.: 625155
Nabil & Hisham's
New World Order
Plays continue daily at 9:00 p.m.
except Saturdays and Sundays
"Happy Feast"

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2465/70	Canadian dollar	1.6300/10
	1.6300/10	Deutschemarks	1.8335/45
	1.8335/45	Dutch guilders	1.5095/105
	1.5095/105	Swiss francs	33.65/69
	33.65/69	Belgian francs	5.5450/500
	5.5450/500	French francs	1578/1580
	1578/1580	Italian lire	115.35/40
	115.35/40	Japanese yen	7.7185/285
	7.7185/285	Swedish crowns	6.9350/450
	6.9350/450	Norwegian crowns	6.2650/750
	6.2650/750	Danish crowns	\$1.4820/30
One sterling	\$331.80/332.30		

Srebrenica evacuation delayed; Sarajevo airlift stays suspended

SARAJEVO (AP) — The promised evacuation of sick and wounded from the east Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica stalled again Tuesday, and Serbs blocked a field hospital and aid convoy for the besieged town.

The international airlift into Sarajevo remained suspended for a fourth day because of fighting near the airport, and at least three more land convoys for Sarajevo and Zepa in eastern Bosnia also were blocked.

"We seem to be at a stalemate just about everywhere," said Sylvia Foa, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva.

While Bosnian Serb leaders have promised to let convoys pass and open an air corridor to Srebrenica, their forces on the ground seem more intent on seizing territory they would be denied under a proposed peace accord.

Talks on that plan remained stalled at U.N. Headquarters in New York. The Security Council was expected to vote later Tuesday on enforcing a no-fly zone over Bosnia, despite a Serb threat to abandon the peace negotiations if the measure was approved.

Ferocious Serb shelling in Sarajevo's western suburbs died down, with many people out walking on a balmy spring morning. U.N. officials who had to flee an observation post during Monday's assault on the suburb of Stup said they could not determine whether Serbs had made

inroads there.

If Stup fell, the city would be virtually open to the Serbs.

Helicopter evacuation of the wounded from Srebrenica, where the U.N. commander for Bosnia has vowed to protect tens of thousands of refugees and residents, may start Wednesday, said Maj. Pepe Gallegos, spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic Monday said he would allow air and land evacuation and aid convoys to Srebrenica. He said Serbs had no intention of taking the town.

But U.N. refugee official Larry Hollingworth, who returned to Sarajevo from Srebrenica Monday, said he believed Serbs would capture the town, one of the last held by the government in eastern Bosnia.

"May be they'll open a corridor and say, 'everybody out, or we'll flatten you.' There's nothing to stop them," Mr. Hollingworth said late Monday.

"I hope to God the Serbs do not go in," Mr. Hollingworth said. "There are 20,000 refugees there, and very few fighters... They will kill thousands of innocent people. It's a tragedy that can be prevented."

Maj. Gallegos said the air corridor is planned for five days, running from Tuzla to Serb held Zvornik and Bratunac before going to Srebrenica.

Serbs would inspect incoming and outgoing helicopters at Zvornik, Maj. Gallegos said. They apparently fear the flights will be used to smuggle weapons to outgunned government forces in the area.

Serbs also are insisting that several hundred ethnic Serbs who want to leave the government held town of Tuzla be allowed to do so.

That evacuation had not started Tuesday. U.N. officials, wary of being used to carry out "ethnic cleansing," were trying to determine how many of the Serbs, who are among some 10,000 in the Tuzla area, actually wanted to leave.

Yugoslav police, meanwhile, stopped a mobile French field hospital headed for Srebrenica at a village called Pecka on the Bosnian-Yugoslav border, a mere 29 kilometres northeast of its destination.

A convoy of trucks for Srebrenica was stranded at nearby Mali Zvornik for the fourth day.

Unconfirmed ham radio reports from Srebrenica on Monday said Serb forces had advanced four kilometres from the south and cut off a dozen villages, surrounding 10,000 to 15,000 people.

There was no fresh word Tuesday on the military situation near Srebrenica, which Gen. Philippe Morillon, commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, has vowed to save from the Serbs.

Eastern Bosnia has been perhaps the most brutal battlefield of the ferocious war that

erupted a year ago when Muslims and Croats voted to secede from Yugoslavia. The Serbs rebelled, and now hold 70 per cent of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Bosnian government says 134,000 people are dead or missing.

Gen. Morillon got a taste of fiery Serb passions about eastern Bosnian territory when he travelled Monday to Bratunac for a funeral of 34 Serbs said to have been killed by Muslims on Orthodox Christmas, Jan. 7.

Gen. Morillon, who was severely criticised by Bosnian Muslims and others after saying he saw no evidence of massacres when he toured the Cerska region after it was taken by the Serbs, declined to speak to reporters, Serbian media said.

But Biljana Plavsic, vice-president of the self-proclaimed "Bosnian Serb Republic," delivered a ringing speech, according to the Belgrade daily Borba.

"Let the whole world hear that the borders of the Serb lands are where our heroes were killed and where your graves are," she intoned.

"Those in America who are deciding upon the destiny of the Serb people must know that Serbs are being killed by Mujahadeens... and from this holy place we're sending a word that we will not allow to live together ever again with those who for the third time in a short history rose up against the Serb people," she added.

Hundreds of ethnic Vietnamese are fleeing Cambodia after Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked an ethnic Vietnamese fishing village and killed 35 people, 14 of them children.

The victims were shot in the head and drowned in the nighttime raid on March 10 in northwestern Cambodia. Since then, ethnic Vietnamese have been scrambling to Takhmau, about 15 kilometres from Phnom Penh, to board the daily boat to Vietnam.

Their rickety wooden boat is overloaded with passengers and what little they can fit on, mostly clothes and food. A few bicycles are strapped to the roof.

Ethnic Vietnamese have lived in Cambodia for three generations. Others crossed the border into Cambodia during the economic boom of recent years to work as construction workers, traders, fishermen and other professions.

But one of those fleeing, 20-year-old electrician Ngo Teoz, said: "My life is more important than money. I am afraid because somebody will attack me."

Mr. Ngu, who came to Phnom Penh four years ago, earned three times as much this past year as he could have in Vietnam because of a building boom driven by 22,000 U.N. peacekeeping personnel sent to prepare for democratic elections in May.

Ngo planned to stay another year. But several months ago the Khmer Rouge began attacking ethnic Vietnamese. U.N. investigators said 80 have been killed since the U.N. mission began a year ago.

The Vietnamese embassy estimates 150,000 Vietnamese live in Cambodia. Many Cambodians dislike Vietnamese, who have gobbled up large chunks of Cambodia over the past few centuries.

The Khmer Rouge's and Vietnamese's is the most strident. The Communist group killed many ethnic Vietnamese and hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during its rule of Cambodia in the 1970s. Vietnam invaded in late 1970, ousted the Khmer Rouge and installed a new government.



ABKHAZIA FIGHTING CONTINUES: Georgian soldiers take cover behind the embankment of the Gumista River where heavy fighting with Abkhazian separatists was reported. Fighting has centred around Sukhumi with Georgian forces continuing to hold the capital of Abkhazia (AFP photo)

French right strikes 2nd round deal

PARIS (R) — France's conservative opposition alliance, on the verge of a landslide victory, agreed Tuesday to field joint candidates in all but four constituencies in next Sunday's parliamentary election run-off.

Alain Juppé, general secretary of the Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR), said his party had reluctantly agreed to allow its Union for French Democracy (UDF) partners to field four candidates in run-offs against better placed RPR contenders.

Their centre-right Union For France (UPF) alliance scored 39.5 per cent on last Sunday's first round, more than twice the score of the ruling Socialist Party, and is forecast to win up to 80 per cent of the 577 National Assembly seats.

Meanwhile, former Prime Minister Michel Rocard, in danger of losing his parliamentary seat, reaffirmed Tuesday he would run as Socialist candidate

for the 1995 French presidential election.

He said French voters had rejected the Socialists massively in Sunday's first round of general elections because of the European economic crisis, "a certain Socialist arrogance" and "that whiff of scandals."

"As things stand now... I am the Socialist Party candidate," said Mr. Rocard, who faces an uphill battle in his own constituency in the western Paris suburbs in next Sunday's run-off.

He trailed a centre-right opponent by 11 per cent on the first round, when the Socialists crashed to their worst general election score in 25 years with just 17.6 per cent.

Asked whether he had the unanimous support of his party, Mr. Rocard said in a Radio Luxembourg interview: "We're not a regiment, what is this idea of unanimity?"

"Naturally there won't be

unanimity, but it is the most obvious solution towards which we are heading, and I consider (the presidential campaign) has already begun and I am at work," he said.

Mr. Rocard, who stirred controversy last month by calling for a "big bang" to replace the Socialist Party with a new movement of Socialists, ex-Communists, Ecologists and Centrists, said the process of renewal should begin immediately after the second round of the general election.

In an apparent swipe at President Francois Mitterrand, who will remain in office and "cohabit" with a conservative government, he said it was necessary to change "the excessively elitist and imperial character" of those who had been in power.

"Some are afraid to call into question habits, rituals and vocabulary that are our intellectual props," he said.

China to make no concessions on Hong Kong

PEKING (R) — China's foreign minister said Tuesday that Peking would make no concessions over Hong Kong, and an official newspaper said Britain should withdraw Governor Chris Patten, the focus of Peking's anger over democratic reform plans in the colony.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told a news conference that the time was not right for him to meet with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd over Hong Kong, which returns to Chinese rule in 1997.

Mr. Qian criticised people who were allegedly trying to make trouble in Hong Kong by changing agreements reached between London and Peking on the territory, a clear dig at Mr. Patten.

"On matters of principles concerning Hong Kong, the Chinese side will make no concessions," Mr. Qian said.

The foreign minister warned Mr. Patten not to bring his reform package before Hong Kong's Legislative Council in the form of draft legislation.

Doing so "would not help Sino-British talks. On the contrary it would only create obstacles to talks," he said.

Other Chinese officials have accused Britain of slamming the door on talks, but Mr. Qian did not repeat this strong language.

He simply said of the idea of a meeting with Mr. Hurd: "Now the conditions for the meeting between us are not ripe."

Mr. Patten has not yet set a date for bringing his proposals to the Legislative Council.

A signed commentary in Shanghai's Liberation Daily lambasted the governor Tuesday as the descendant of a "stinking" colonialism that is the "garbage of history."

"The wisest thing the British government could do is withdraw this Chris Patten, the present governor of Hong Kong and the offspring of colonialism," the official newspaper said.

The commentary was the first official appeal for Mr. Patten's dismissal published in China.

"Under a democratic and civilised system, the true nature of colonialism cannot avoid wriggling about to make trouble," the newspaper said.

"This time it has been nakedly revealed in the person of Chris Patten."

The newspaper accused Mr. Patten's supporters within the British government of being nostalgic for their colonialist past.

"The world is no longer like the 19th century when what the colonialists said went," it said.

"China will never again be a country forced to listen to the orders of others or give way on a question of principle like sovereignty."

The newspaper poured scorn on attempts to internationalise the Hong Kong issue by trying to get the United States in particular to get involved.

"Could 1.2 billion Chinese people be moved on a question of sovereignty by any pressure?" it asked.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Yeltsin's mother to be buried in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin's mother worked in her garden, made jam and knitted socks for her famous son up until her death over the weekend in the Kremlin hospital, a newspaper reported Monday. The Izvestia newspaper also said Klavdia Yeltsin would be buried in Moscow's Novodevichy Cemetery, where the graves of many famous Russian and Soviet personalities are located. Rumours of her death first surfaced Sunday at the session of the Supreme Soviet legislature. Government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, later confirmed the whispered reports. She was 85. However, it was earlier believed that she had died in the Siberian city of Yekaterinburg, an industrial city 1,600 kilometres east of Moscow that was near her native village of Butka. Mr. Yeltsin's mother had suffered several heart attacks, and the newspaper said her health had not been helped by her eldest son's political struggle.

Italian police deal big blow to mafia

ROME (R) — Two of the most powerful bosses of the Calabrian region of the mafia were captured early Tuesday after seven years on the run. Police said Antonino Inzeri, 47, and Pasquale Condello, 30, were arrested without a shot being fired in the countryside near Reggio Calabria, the provincial capital in the "toe" of Italy where Mr. Inzeri had his underworld fief. The arrests represent a major success for security forces in the battle against the so-called 'Ndrangheta, the Calabrian version of the Sicilian counterpart. Both Mr. Inzeri — known in the underworld as "Nanno Ferocce (Fierce Dwarf)" — and his brother-in-law Mr. Condello were armed, but gave themselves up without resistance when challenged. "Congratulations. You've done well," Mr. Inzeri told his captors.

German makes bid to lead FAO

WASHINGTON (AP) — Germany's choice for the next director general of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) presented his candidacy to diplomats and reporters. He was due to see U.S. State Department officials Tuesday. The election for a six year term at the FAO's Rome headquarters is due in November. Christian Bonte Friebeim, 50, an agronomist, worked for FAO 21 years before taking his current job of director general of the International Service for National Agricultural Research at the Hague in the Netherlands. At a meeting in the German embassy, he outlined problems that will face the successful candidate. "I wish him luck," he said. He said the organisation had been founded almost half a century ago with the interests of consumers in mind, rather than the interests of food producers. He predicted that one day the voice of consumers would be heard.

U.N. envoy in Haiti to press for talks

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — U.N. special envoy Dante Caputo arrived in Haiti Monday afternoon to press for negotiations to reinstate ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. "The central idea of this mission is to begin political discussions to initiate the second step of our work — the solution of the political crisis," Mr. Caputo told journalists at the airport. Mr. Caputo, the head of the joint U.N.-OAS peacekeeping mission monitoring the human rights situation nationwide, said he had "a timetable in mind" for Mr. Aristide's return, but denied that he ever said the crisis could be resolved in three months, as has been reported.

Duffey to head U.S. Information Agency

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joseph Duffey, president of American University (AU), announced Monday he will resign to become director of the United States Information Agency (USIA) in the Clinton administration. The appointment, which includes leadership of the Voice of America, is subject to Senate confirmation. In an open letter to the university community, Mr. Duffey said it had been a difficult decision. "The students of this university have taught me much in these months, and their example makes me confident about our nation's future," he wrote. The resignation is effective June 30. The university will launch a nationwide search shortly for a successor. Mr. Duffey, a longtime friend of President Clinton, came to AU two years ago after nine years at the University of Massachusetts, where he served as chancellor of the Amherst Campus and president of the university system. He was an assistant secretary of state and chairman of the National Endowment For the Humanities in the Carter and early Reagan administrations.

Blast damages commerce ministry in Athens

ATHENS (AP) — A bomb exploded outside the Commerce Ministry in central Athens Tuesday, causing some damage but no injuries, police said. A police spokesman said the blast occurred at about 4:20 a.m. (0220 GMT) on the ground floor of the ministry. It shattered windows in the ministry and in some neighbouring office buildings. All the buildings were empty at the time, said the spokesman, who asked not to be named in accordance with regulations. He said a caller claiming to represent the leftist Revolutionary Popular Struggle (ELA) warned a newspaper and television station four hours earlier that a bomb would explode overnight at a "capitalist target."

Hundreds of Vietnamese flee Cambodia

TAKHMAU, Cambodia (AP) — Hundreds of ethnic Vietnamese are fleeing Cambodia after Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked an ethnic Vietnamese fishing village and killed 35 people, 14 of them children.

The victims were shot in the head and drowned in the nighttime raid on March 10 in northwestern Cambodia. Since then, ethnic Vietnamese have been scrambling to Takhmau, about 15 kilometres from Phnom Penh, to board the daily boat to Vietnam.

Their rickety wooden boat is overloaded with passengers and what little they can fit on, mostly clothes and food. A few bicycles are strapped to the roof.

Ethnic Vietnamese have lived in Cambodia for three generations. Others crossed the border into Cambodia during the economic boom of recent years to work as construction workers, traders, fishermen and other professions.

But one of those fleeing, 20-year-old electrician Ngo Teoz, said: "My life is more important than money. I am afraid because somebody will attack me."

Mr. Ngu, who came to Phnom Penh four years ago, earned three times as much this past year as he could have in Vietnam because of a building boom driven by 22,000 U.N. peacekeeping personnel sent to prepare for democratic elections in May.

Ngo planned to stay another year. But several months ago the Khmer Rouge began attacking ethnic Vietnamese. U.N. investigators said 80 have been killed since the U.N. mission began a year ago.

The Vietnamese embassy estimates 150,000 Vietnamese live in Cambodia. Many Cambodians dislike Vietnamese, who have gobbled up large chunks of Cambodia over the past few centuries.

The Khmer Rouge's and Vietnamese's is the most strident. The Communist group killed many ethnic Vietnamese and hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during its rule of Cambodia in the 1970s. Vietnam invaded in late 1970, ousted the Khmer Rouge and installed a new government.

Japan, U.S. and S. Korea agree joint approach to N. Korean nuclear move

TOKYO (R) — Japan, the United States and South Korea have agreed that if necessary they will take North Korea's refusal of nuclear site inspections before the U.N. Security Council, a Tokyo Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday.

He said representatives of the three governments, meeting in New York Monday, decided to make a joint effort to persuade Pyongyang to accept its withdrawal of nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

The March 12 decision by North Korea, which is suspected of covertly developing nuclear weapons, posed a serious threat to international peace and stability, the official said.

If mediation efforts failed, "the three agreed that, if it becomes necessary, they are ready to submit the issue to the U.N. Security Council," he added.

"Each country will cooperate to persuade North Korea to clear up the nuclear doubts, while leaving open the possibility of improving relations with Pyongyang (afterwards)," the Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

But China, a permanent member of the Security Council, said Tuesday it opposed bringing the issue to the Council and was also against any imposition of sanctions on North Korea.

"If the question is referred to the Security Council it will only complicate the matter," Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told a news conference in Peking.

"We are opposed to the application of sanctions," North Korea's bombshell announcement that it was quitting the nuclear regulatory pact, three days after its Stalinist leadership put the whole country on a "semi-war" footing, sent shockwaves around the globe.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) gave North Korea a March 31 deadline to open two suspect sites to inspection.

Publicly, at least, Pyongyang shows no sign of climbing down. The official Korean Central News Agency, monitored in

Japan, U.S. and S. Korea agree joint approach to N. Korean nuclear move

Tokyo, carried an angry denunciation Tuesday of Western news reports that the country would bow to international pressures, rejoin the NPT and accept IAEA inspection now that U.S.-South Korea joint military exercises had ended.

"This is nothing but a totally unfounded political fantasy," said the statement, which the agency said was first issued on March 18.

"Our government's position is consistent, clear and decisive. There can be no change, not even an inch of retreat from our position unless the U.S. nuclear threat to our country is completely removed and the IAEA's unjust demand for 'special inspection' is withdrawn."

The statement went on: "We also advise Japan and the South Korean authorities to stop talking recklessly about 'sanctions' and the like and behave with discretion."

"It is a gross mistake if they think they can frighten us with some political 'isolation' or economic sanctions."

El Salvador will not meet U.N. demands

SAN SALVADOR (R) — President Alfredo Cristiani has refused to meet U.N. demands that El Salvador's heavily criticised Supreme Court be replaced, saying such a move would be unconstitutional.

A U.N. report on the worst human rights atrocities of a 12-year civil war last week said El Salvador's justice system was "highly deficient" and called for the immediate replacement of the 14 Supreme Court members, particularly its president, Mauricio Gutierrez Castro.

But Mr. Cristiani said Monday he could not fire the judges.

"We will not do anything that is against the constitution. I can assure you that...there is no power in the executive branch to dismiss judges in the Supreme Court so that obviously will not be done," he told reporters.

Military chiefs, the Supreme Court and hardliners in the ruling Arena Party have attacked the U.N.-appointed Truth Commission report, which blamed the armed forces for most of the war crimes in a conflict which killed 75,000 people.

Mr. Cristiani refused to say Monday if he would act on the Truth Commission's call for the removal of more than 40 army officers, including Defence Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce and his deputy, General Juan Orlando Zepeda.

Gen. Ponce, who was cited by the Truth Commission for ordering the murder of six Jesuit priests in 1989, has offered his resignation under intense international pressure, but Mr. Cristiani has not said whether he will accept it.

A government delegation will go to New York this week to present a timetable for removing 15 military chiefs excluded from promised purge of the armed forces. The purge of 102 officers was drawn up by a separate civilian panel set up under the U.N.-brokered peace treaty signed in January, 1992.

The U.N. Security Council last Thursday demanded the government's full compliance with the purge, and the Truth Commission's recommendations, but two days later right wing legislators forced through a controversial blanket amnesty for all army and rebel chiefs named in the report.

COLUMN

Neil Jordan wins Writers Guild Award

BEVERLY HILLS (R) — Irish filmmaker Neil Jordan won the Writers Guild of America Award for Best Original Screenplay for The Crying Game, a movie he said he thought would never be made. The riveting film about a reluctant Irish Republican Army (IRA) kidnapper who flees to London and develops a relationship with the former lover of his victim has been nominated for six Oscars and has already won a number of awards. "I imagined it would finish my career," because of the film's controversial plot, Jordan said after receiving the award at a post ceremony at a Beverly Hills hotel late Monday. "I thought nobody would make it." Asked about the film's chance of winning an Oscar at next week's Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Awards, Jordan said: "I have no idea. It would be wonderful." On Sunday, the film, released by the independent distributor Miramax, won the British Academy of Film and Television's Award for Best British Film. It has also won the New York Film Critics Circle Award for Best Original Screenplay. The Writers Guild Award for Best Screenplay based on material previously produced or published went to Michael Tolkin for The Player, an adaptation of his novel by the same name. The movie, from New Line Cinema, is a biting satire on Hollywood.

Woman aged 101 plans to learn Spanish

GENEVA (AP) — Fanny Lips celebrated her 101st birthday by announcing she wants to learn a new language — Spanish. Ms. Lips, one of the first Swiss women to attend university early in this century, took up the hobby of learning languages at age 70 once she retired as a German teacher to French speaking Geneva young people. Since then she has learned Russian, Chinese and Sanskrit. She has been studying Hebrew since she turned 100. "She has an excellent memory and still reads a great deal," said the Red Cross nurse who looks in daily on Ms. Lips in her Geneva apartment, where she lives alone with a lot of books but no radio or TV.

Mel Gibson defends his violent films

LONDON (AP) — Actor Mel Gibson defended the violence in the action packed movies that helped make him a star. "I don't believe they did promote violence, I think they mirror what they see in society," said the 37 year old Australian. "The world has always been a fairly barbaric place and it's simply a reaction that's trying to emulate what it sees in society," he said. Gibson, star of Lethal Weapon and the Mad Max movies, told BBC Radio that some films overstep the mark. "They're too gratuitous. I don't believe that I've been involved in one that does go too far and I feel completely proud of my heritage and my past works," he said. Gibson is in Britain to promote his new movie, Forever Young.

Supreme court lets stand limitation on salvagers' claim

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court, steering clear of a billion dollar contest over sunken gold, let stand a ruling that the ancient rule of "finders, keepers" does not apply to long-lost shipwrecks. The justices, without comment, refused to review a federal appeals court ruling that could force the salvagers who found the S.S. Central America 130 years after it sank to share the booty. The central America sank in the Atlantic Ocean about 290 kilometres east of Charleston S.C. in 1857. It is one of the most famous shipwrecks in American history. The ship went down in a hurricane while traveling from Panama to New York. Only 153 of its 570 passengers were saved. The Central America was carrying an estimated \$2 million worth of California gold — now worth an estimated \$1 billion. An Ohio syndicate, the Columbus America Discovery Group, located the ship 8,000 feet (2,500 metres) below the ocean's surface in 1987 and began salvaging the gold. A federal judge in Virginia ruled that the syndicate owned the treasure, but a three judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out that ruling by a 2-1 vote last August. The panel said the judge wrongly applied the maritime "Law of Finds" after concluding that the Central America had been abandoned.

Defence, prosecution scenarios of King beating far apart

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In an act one of the Rodney King civil rights trial, Mr. King was seen as a frightened motorist beaten by overzealous police.

In act two, Mr. King is drugged and dangerous and police are the scared ones.

Which picture is true? Eventually, the jury must decide. But the grand finale is several weeks away.

On Monday, a defence expert witness, Sgt. Charles Duke, said under cross examination that officers expect to injure suspects when they strike with a baton.

"You can't use that baton and not hurt somebody," said Sgt. Duke.

He testified last week the four officers charged with violating Mr. King's civil rights had acted properly in clubbing and kicking him.

In a display of courtroom theatrics, defence attorney Michael Stone strapped on an officer's equipment belt that was outfitted with a toy gun.

He asked Sgt. Duke if the belt prevents officers from wrestling with a suspect.

Sgt. Duke said a suspect might be able to grab the officer's gun, and that the officer's movement is restricted by the 10 pound (4.5 kilogramme) belt and the bullet-proof vest worn with it.

Later this week, a leading character in the courtroom drama, Sgt. Stacey Koon, is due to testify on his own behalf.

Sgt. Koon has sought to project the image of a professional policeman wrongly criticised for his actions on the night of Mr. King's beating.

His co-defendants, officers Laurence Powell, Timothy Wind and Theodore Briseno, have not said if they will take the stand.

Their earlier state trial ended with the four officers' acquittals on most charges, setting off deadly riots a year ago.

Officer Briseno, who testified against his co-defendants in the state trial, risks having his previous testimony come back to haunt him if he takes the stand. Officer Wind never testified in the state trial.

In style as well as substance, defence and prosecution have been worlds apart.

For sheer drama, prosecutors excelled. They called Mr. King to the stand for the first time, and his memories of pain were powerful. They brought on a police use of force expert, Sgt. Mark Conta,

who adamantly denounced the officers' actions as violating Los Angeles Police Department policies.

The defence got off to a slow start after U.S. District Judge John G. Davies warned Sgt. Koon's lawyer, Ira Salzman, he was "conducting a disaster" by calling "unnecessary witnesses."

Mr. Salzman soon moved to the crux of his case — bystander officers who depicted Mr. King as bizarre and threatening, laughing inappropriately and flailing at officers.

Prosecutors challenged their credibility on cross examination.

Things picked up for the defence later. Two bystander officers said they thought Mr. King was under the influence of the hallucinogenic drug PCP, a key argument of the defence.